

MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

13 MAY 1981

Lebanese Crisis

Military Situation--Damascus television, citing a Syrian military spokesman, reported that Arab Deterrent Forces (ADF) in Lebanon downed an Israeli reconnaissance plane over the Al-Biqa' valley early on the morning of 12 May. Jerusalem radio said an IDF spokesman denied the Syrian claim. According to the radio, around noon on 12 May, a missile battery inside Syria fired SAM's at Israeli planes on a routine patrol but did not hit any of them. IDF radio's military correspondent later said that no Israeli planes had been in the firing zone during the early morning SAM firing, and it speculated that this might indicate nervousness on the part of the SAM crews.

Voice of Lebanon radio reported that the Syrians have strengthened their air defenses at Al-Qulay'at airbase in Lebanon, bringing in planes and installing two missile batteries nearby. Citing press correspondents, the radio said the Syrians have reinforced their positions in Al-Masna' with armored vehicles. It also reported that they have appointed a new ADF commander. According to Beirut radio, Beirut was calm on 12 May after a period of indiscriminate shelling that had caused scores of casualties. In a statement reported by INA, the chairman of Middle East Airlines announced that that airline's flights to and from Beirut airport will be resumed on 13 May. Clandestine Voice of Palestine radio reported further Israeli reconnaissance flights in the south, and Voice of Lebanon said the Israelis have installed radar equipment in the western sector of the border enclave.

Habib Mission--U.S. Special Envoy Philip Habib met with Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir on 12 May, Jerusalem radio reported, and the Israeli Cabinet met later to hear a report from Prime Minister Menahem Begin on his discussions with Habib. The U.S. envoy is to meet with Alignment leader Shim'on Peres today, the radio said, and will then return to Damascus for a second round of talks with Syrian leaders. A Jerusalem radio correspondent reported that Habib has put forward a compromise plan to Israeli and Syrian leaders whereby the Syrians would withdraw their missiles from Lebanon, Israel would limit its overflights of Lebanon and Christian militia activity would be reduced. However, IDF radio reported today that Prime Minister Begin's office announced that the U.S. compromise plan does not mention any restriction of Israeli flights over Lebanon. According to a 12 May report in MA'ARIV, Israel has rejected compromise proposals that permit the Syrian missiles to remain in Lebanon even if Syria pledges to use them for defense purposes only.

Syrian Comment--A Damascus radio commentary said recent declarations by Israeli Prime Minister Begin show that Israel plans to launch a wide-scale attack on Syria and Lebanon and that the United States intends to give free rein to Israeli actions in Lebanon. Israel wants to continue dividing and destroying Lebanon, the radio went on, and plans a preemptive strike against Syria and its army. The radio also carried a commentary by the daily TISHRIN that accused the Phalangists of undermining Lebanon's security and of trying to foil any steps achieved in the talks on Lebanese national accord.

Other Comment, Developments--SPA reported that the Saudi paper AL-BILAD called for collective and urgent Arab action to confront Israel's intention to attack Syria and the Palestinians. AL-JAZIRAH said the United States should shoulder its responsibilities in preserving peace and stability in the Middle East, SPA reported, and asserted that Israel's political and military ambitions should not always be the prime U.S. concern. The JORDAN TIMES said it is naive and impertinent for the United States to think it can mediate in the conflict when it provides arms, money and diplomatic support that allows Israel to demand a status quo based on military superiority. U.S. support for Israel is generating an increasingly intense hatred in the Arab world, it said. The Voice of Palestine said that PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat returned to Beirut after talks with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn and senior Iraqi officials and that he later attended an emergency meeting of the Fatah Central Committee, which reviewed the serious situation in Lebanon and decided to continue to intensify efforts to convene an emergency meeting

of Arab foreign ministers. Amman television reported that Jordan's King Husayn received a message from 'Arafat dealing with the latest developments in Lebanon. The Soviet Union will not remain silent over any Israeli aggression against Syria, according to Fatah Central Committee member Salim az-Za'nun in remarks made in Kuwait and carried by Voice of Palestine. The radio quoted Az-Za'nun as saying that Palestinian resistance factions and popular unions in Kuwait have decided to declare a general mobilization among their members. Jerusalem radio reported that the Egyptian charge met with Israeli Foreign Minister Shamir to convey a message on Lebanon from Egyptian Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali.

Israel

Knesset Endorses Begin Announcement--According to Jerusalem radio, the Knesset endorsed Prime Minister Begin's speech to the Knesset on the Lebanese situation by a majority vote.

Van der Klaauw Meetings--In reportage on European Community President Christoph van der Klaauw's visit, Jerusalem radio reported that after the meeting with Begin and being questioned on the EC's stance on security, the visitor "left in a rage." The radio said Begin expressed surprise at hearing that no European initiative exists. It also said that a message from Syria stating that it wants to refrain from a confrontation with Israel was conveyed to Begin through Van der Klaauw and that Begin had commented that Israel does not want war either. Van der Klaauw met later with Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres, who criticized the EC endorsement of the PLO in the Venice and Brussels working papers.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

KUNA reported that Bangladesh President Ziaur Rahman and Secretary General of the Islamic Conference Habib Chatti left Kuwait for Tehran after a brief visit. They had earlier visited Baghdad, according to INA, where they conferred with President Husayn on the activities of the Islamic good offices committee to end the Iran-Iraq war. The EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY reported that the nonaligned mediation commission arrived in Dubayy from Baghdad and cited Faruq Qaddumi, member of the delegation and head of the PLO Political Department, as saying that the commission had met with success and will continue its contacts during the coming weeks.

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JOINT COMMAND ISSUES DECISIONS ON LEBANON

NC130912 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 0645 GMT 13 May 81

[Text] In the south, under the slogan of "All rifles toward the Zionist enemy," the Joint Command of the Lebanese National Movement and the Palestinian resistance has held a meeting in the presence of Brother Abu al-Hawl [Hayil 'Abd al-Hamid], Fatah Central Committee member and secretary of the Higher Security Committee; Brother Abu Mahir [Muhammad Ghunaym], PLO Executive Committee member; Brother Abu Yahya, the military official of the Amal Movement in Lebanon; Brother Al-Haj Isma'il, joint forces commander in the south and Brother Mustafa Sa'id, secretary of the Sidon Regional Political Council.

During the meeting all aspects of the situation in the south were discussed as was the daily Israeli escalation to penetrate the south by military force. The recent security events in the south were also discussed. The command decided to strike with an iron fist at all suspect and agent elements with a view to strengthening the domestic front at this juncture where an Israeli military aggression is expected.

The command adopted a number of security and military measures covering the entire area of southern Lebanon.

Following the meeting the Joint Command issued a statement in which it affirmed the need to point all the rifles at the Zionist enemy. The statement said that any rifle that deviates from this target is a treacherous rifle and must be silenced.

The statement added that the Joint Command discussed the events that took place in the south during the past two weeks. It decided to put an end to this internal bleeding and it adopted a number of measures aimed both at consolidating the unity of the national rank and at preventing the hostile organs from destroying the steadfastness of the nationalist areas. The command decided the following:

1. To form an operations room from which the National Movement, the Amal Movement and the Palestinian movement will watch the daily political, security and military situations in the south and to form joint groups from these three movements to curb all destructive actions by the hostile organs;
2. To condemn the crime which claimed the lives of four fighters in the front trench and to bring the perpetrators to trial;
3. To denounce the internal fighting and the shelling of villages under any circumstances;
4. To form a permanent field court that will try all persons accused of sabotage;
5. To drop all propaganda campaigns that are detrimental to the unity of the steadfast national position in the south;
6. To prevent the taking of any military action such as the erection of barricades or the declaration of a state of alert without the prior clear decision of the joint operations room;
7. To stop all kidnappings, counter kidnappings and hunting down of persons;
8. To convict any party that does not abide by these directives and to announce such convictions in all information media.

Masses of our people: All of the south is one rifle against the Zionist-isolationist enemy.

SYRIAN POSITION ON MISSILES DECLARED NONNEGOTIABLE

JN122114 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 1805 GMT 12 May 81

[From "Names, Figures and Events Under the Spotlight" program]

[Excerpts] Brothers: Several issues on the domestic and foreign levels have been highlighted by the Zionist entity's information media during the past week.

Despite the Zionist leaders' heavy involvement in the elections and the feverish competition that precedes these elections among the parties seeking power in the Zionist entity, several foreign issues have taken prominence among the political and military leaders in Tel Aviv.

The Syrian decision to introduce the SAM antiaircraft missiles to Al-Biqa' has disturbed the enemy leaders and foiled their plans of aggression and their blatant interference alongside the isolationist forces, their allies, and has also checked the Zionist air force's belligerence in the Lebanese skies.

In general, the Zionist reactions to the courageous Syrian decision to protect Lebanese airspace from the Zionist air raids were confused and impotent. Early this month the Knesset Foreign Relations and Security Committee held an emergency session to discuss what the Zionist information media have called the crisis of the Syrian missiles in Lebanon. The results of this emergency session were merely threats, which received no reply or attention from the Syrian side, which reiterated its commitment to Lebanon and the Palestinian resistance.

The Knesset Foreign Relations and Security Committee held another session to discuss the issue of the missiles. The results of this session, however, had been no more than empty threats to use force if political means are exhausted. The Syrian response to these threats, according to reports by the Zionist information media, had been the reinforcement of the previous missile batteries with new batteries which were placed on the borders with Lebanon. This made the Tel Aviv rulers realize the futility of their threats in trying to make Syria change its clear and serious stand on the issue of the missiles.

With the arrival of Philip Habib, the U.S. envoy, to the region, as part of the U.S. mediation to settle the crisis, it became clear that the U.S.-Zionist attempt to blackmail fraternal Syria has not succeeded and that the U.S. stand, which is completely biased toward the Israeli stand, is the one which will be responsible now and in the future for the successive failures of the U.S. policy in the Middle East.

There is no doubt that the next few days will bring several developments on the level of the Arab-Zionist dispute stemming from the Lebanese crisis. It has become clear, however, that the Syrian stand on the issue of the missiles is not negotiable and that the Zionist entity must open its eyes to the fact that Lebanon is not an open sky for its air force. The Tel Aviv rulers must think twice before sending any plane over Lebanon because no one can guarantee that it will return safely.

USSR 'WILL NOT REMAIN SILENT' IF SYRIA ATTACKED

JN121648 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 1615 GMT 12 May 81

[Text] Kuwait--Brother Abu al-Adib [Salim az-Za'nun], Fatah Central Committee member, has said that the imperialist lies and baseless fears of the so-called Soviet threat are a link in the chain of the conspiratorial design to strike at the Palestinian revolution, the Lebanese National Movement and Syria. He declared that the Soviet Union will not remain silent over any Israeli aggression against Syria.

Asked about the general mobilization decision, Abu al-Adib said that the Palestinian resistance factions and popular unions in Kuwait have decided to declare a general mobilization among their members and to summon all those who are able to bear arms to join the revolution. Palestinians working in Kuwait have also decided to donate the salary of 3 working days for the revolution.

KUWAITGANDHI VISITS FOR TALKS ON REGIONAL, OTHER ISSUES

KUNA Interview

LD102302 Kuwait KUNA in English 1633 GMT 10 May 81

[Text] Kuwait, 10 May (KUNA)--"It is a good idea for the Gulf countries to get together to strengthen themselves", Indian Premier Mrs. Indira Gandhi described the forthcoming Gulf Cooperation Council. "Nobody should feel that it is against them because if rightly or wrongly that impression grows then you know the reaction: that people will try to make another group", the visiting premier said in an exclusive interview with KUNA Sunday.

My talks with H.H. the amir and H.H. the crown prince were not on bilateral relations. Those discussions covered problems of our region and were largely on global matters, she added.

We had the privilege of welcoming H.H. the amir in India last September and I found it my duty to pay back the visit as an expression of our bonds of fraternity, Mrs. Gandhi said in the interview conducted by KUNA Chairman Director General Barges Hamoud al-Barges.

"While I discussed with the amir and the crown prince, some other members of my delegation had talks with Kuwaiti ministers on bilateral relations."

Commenting on Kuwait-Indian relations, Mrs. Gandhi said both were interested in peace, as well as having an economic order of a just nature.

There is talk on what is called North/South dialogue, that is a dialogue between developed industrial and developing countries. But we feel it is essential to have a South/South dialogue, as cooperation between developing countries will give them an effective voice in discussions with the North, Mrs. Gandhi added.

We have had a long traditional friendship as well as cultural exchange with Kuwait, the Gulf and indeed all Arab countries in addition to commercial trade relations, she said. But now there are problems in the world which concern the countries of our region and we should keep closer contacts and exchange views to find a way for a solution, Mrs. Gandhi added.

Asked on Indian initiatives for keeping the Gulf and the Indian Ocean as peaceful zones, Mrs. Gandhi said it not only India, but it was all the coastal states around who had strongly expressed this desire. But in spite of this, foreign presence is increasing in the ocean.

Asked to elaborate on how she viewed the Gulf Cooperation Council, Mrs. Gandhi told KUNA director-general "I welcome it". We believe in bilateral and multilateral cooperation between the states not only of the region but in all the developing world, the visiting premier added.

The efforts of the non-aligned in regard to fighting in Iraq and Iran are continuing, Mrs. Gandhi said, adding, most of these problems have become so complicated that to solve them immediately will be a question of "trying and trying and continue to try" and ultimately they do get solved.

Reverting to the issue of foreign interventions in the region, Mrs. Gandhi said in spite of a resolution by the United Nations, foreign presence is increasing in the ocean and "we feel that this type of confrontation with each wanting a greater presence is threatening us all."

In evaluating the Non-Aligned Movement, Mrs. Gandhi said, "It is true that for a period it rather became weakened". "I think they started concentrating on matters which divided them rather than in subjects which would unite them."

In the earlier years of my government in India, Mrs. Gandhi told KUNA, we were "concentrating on economic issues which did unite everybody." "Even then much of the Western press and media were, I could almost say, ridiculing the movement, saying that it was "irrelevant and serving no purpose". Everytime there was a conference, we were told that the movement was going to collapse. But it did not and was strengthening, Mrs. Gandhi said.

"The meeting of the non-aligned foreign ministers in New Delhi was again described to be the end, but to the contrary we were able to produce a document which was not "satisfactory to all, but acceptable to all," the Indian premier added.

The foundation has been laid for future consolidation, as well as a base for action. I think in today's world when various blocks and countries are moving towards confrontation, "it is very important to have some people committed to peace and lessening of tension", Mrs PM Gandhi said. This is what the non-aligned can do but we do not seek a leadership role and true [as received] from the beginning we have thought only to work in partnership with other countries, the premier said.

"We are especially interested in an ending of the Iraqi-Iranian conflict not only because we have had very good friendship with both countries, and not only because this war is causing unnecessary destruction, but "any such conflict in the neighborhood may give openings for interference," Mrs. Gandhi added.

In the course of the interview, Al-Bargès Hamoud al-Bargès, reverted to the world figures who attended the first 1955 conference and changes even in names given to the movement. "All these names have been given by the press and not by people in the movement who always named the movement as the non-alignment, Mrs. Gandhi said.

The original idea was to keep away from the blocs "and that remains the idea", she said, adding, when we saw that the major problems of all the countries concerned were economic, "we started to give greater emphasis to economic cooperation".

Answering a question on Afghanistan, Mrs. Gandhi said "there is already an intervention." We have expressed our view quite clearly in public and in private to all the people concerned as well as to anybody who has spoken to us. We are against outside interference whether in the form of troops or any other manner, Mrs. Gandhi said. However, we have tried to put this question in perspective because we have found that many of those who criticised the Soviet action were supporting similar action in other parts of the world, Mrs. Gandhi told KUNA.

We know that there are powers who have interfered in other countries, who have helped to destabilize them to remove leaders and interfere in other ways, Mrs. Gandhi added. We also feel in a situation like this, the aim should be not just to apportion blame but trying to find a solution, and we feel such a solution to be a political one, the Indian premier said.

"Life is full of difficulties. We are meeting challenges almost in every step of the way" Mrs. Gandhi said. The solution can only be one in which all of us will put their hands together, she added.

Asked on her opinion on ways and means to make Israel comply with UN resolutions and No. 242 in particular, Mrs. Gandhi said "obviously Israel should comply with resolutions", adding, "it is really I don't think I can give an answer as to how we can make them comply". But all those who have influence within Israel and who are now changing their attitude should exert greater influence.

India, as you know has always supported the course of the Palestinians, the visiting premier said. "And India was much appreciated by the Palestinians and Arabs in general," Barges commented.

Asked if she was not a political leader, what she liked to become, Mrs. Gandhi said the question was a difficult one. "I love children. I think I could have liked to do something in the realm of education," the Indian premier said.

Joint Statement

LD111158 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 11 May 81

[Joint statement on the visit of Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi to Kuwait]

[Text] At the invitation of His Highness Heir Apparent and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah as-Salim as-Sabah of Kuwait, Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi paid an official visit to Kuwait from 9 to 11 May, 1981.

During the visit the Indian prime minister met with his highness the amir of Kuwait and discussed with him bilateral relations as well as regional and international issues. The discussions have shown an identity of views on the matters discussed.

In an atmosphere of cordiality, trust and mutual understanding, comprehensive talks were held between his highness the heir apparent and prime minister and the Indian prime minister covering matters of importance and common interest.

The two sides reviewed with great satisfaction the historical relations between the two countries and expressed their common determination to develop these relations for the good of the peoples of both countries on the basis of equality and mutual respect.

The Indian prime minister expressed the Indian Government's great appreciation of the aid it provided during the past years through the Kuwaiti fund for Arab economic development. His highness the heir apparent and prime minister, on his part, reiterated Kuwait's readiness to continue to offer help to India in the field of economic development. The Kuwaiti fund will study the feasibility of participation in some petrochemical and fertilizer projects.

The two sides expressed their satisfaction at the tangible increase in the economic exchanges between their two countries in recent years and expressed their conviction that there is still wide scope for increasing these economic exchanges between their two countries and for the diversification of these exchanges, particularly in the fields of investment and joint projects in both India and Kuwait and in other countries. The two sides will study the feasibility of taking the necessary steps with regard to these investments.

The two sides noted with extreme concern the deterioration of the international situation and the persistence of many problems without any solutions found. They also expressed their deep concern over the emergence of new spots of tension in the world. The two sides expressed their conviction that in the current climate of international crises the Non-aligned Movement and the policy of nonalignment become indispensable for bolstering international peace, cooperation and progress. The two sides underlined the growing importance of asserting the role of the Nonaligned Movement in the international relations field as an independent factor unconnected with blocs and as a positive political force for safeguarding and bolstering international peace and security.

The two sides noted with extreme concern the deterioration of the situation in the Middle East and the major threat it poses to peace and stability in this part of the world. They expressed their conviction that no just and lasting peace can be established in that region without the complete and immediate Israeli withdrawal from all the Arab territories occupied since 1967 including Jerusalem and the retrieval of the established rights of the Palestinian people including their right to return to their homeland and establish their own independent state.

The two sides reiterated their full support for the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and stressed the need for its participation as a full party in the efforts to establish a just and lasting peace in the area.

The Kuwaiti side expressed its profound appreciation for India's firm and unwavering policy in support of the Arab causes. The Indian side reiterated its determination to continue that principled policy.

The two sides also expressed their extreme concern over the situation in Lebanon and called for finding a peaceful and urgent solution based on safeguarding and respecting Lebanon's independence, sovereignty and regional safety. They strongly denounced that Israeli aggression against Lebanon and Israel's unlawful interference in Lebanon's internal affairs.

The two sides expressed their profound concern over the situation in Afghanistan and called for a just and comprehensive solution to that problem based on the withdrawal of foreign troops, the return of the Afghan refugees to their homes in safety and with dignity, adherence to the principle of noninterference, complete respect for Afghanistan's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity and nonaligned status.

The two sides also expressed their profound concern over the Iranian-Iraqi conflict and expressed the hope that the two countries will solve their differences by peaceful means. They also expressed their full support for the efforts of the ministerial committee of the nonaligned countries for the restoration of peace between the two countries.

The two sides also expressed their profound concern over the growing presence of the superpowers in the Indian Ocean region against the wishes of its littoral and interior countries and called on the superpowers to speedily reduce and end their military presence there. In this regard, the two sides reiterated the need to intensify efforts to implement the declaration on turning the Indian Ocean region into a zone of peace as provided by the UN General Assembly resolution in this regard. The two sides expressed their conviction that the preservation and safeguarding of peace and security in the Gulf area are the responsibility of the Gulf countries themselves without any foreign interference.

On reviewing the situation in the Gulf region, the Kuwaiti side explained the aims behind the establishment of the Arab Gulf Cooperation Council. The Indian side expressed its wishes for the success of the council.

On discussing the situation in the southern part of the African Continent, the two sides agreed that it is impossible to eradicate tension and confrontation and establish peace in that region without the liberation of Namibia from South Africa's unlawful occupation and the overthrow of racial discrimination in South Africa. The two sides also called for bolstering the resolutions adopted during the conference of foreign ministers of the nonaligned countries in Algeria which discussed the Namibian question.

On reviewing the international economic situation, the two sides noted with deep concern the sharp crisis facing the international economy, particularly the developing countries. They stressed the urgent need for changing the current international economic system with a view to ensuring the effective implementation of the new international economic system.

The two sides stressed the growing importance of bolstering and widening economic and technical cooperation between the developing countries under the present conditions of the world economic position. They expressed their hope and confidence in that the conference on economic cooperation among the developing countries, scheduled to be held in Caracas this year, will succeed in defining the ways for cooperation in the fields of trade, technology, food, energy, raw materials, financing and manufacturing.

The Kuwaiti and Indian sides expressed their extreme satisfaction with the positive results of the official visit paid by Indira Gandhi, the Indian prime minister, to Kuwait. The visit has contributed to deepening understanding and cooperation between the two countries.

The Indian prime minister, Indira Gandhi, expressed her sincere gratitude to the Kuwait ruler, government and people for the warm welcome shown to her and members of her delegation. She extended an invitation to his Highness Heir Apparent and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah as-Salim as-Sabah to visit India. His Highness Shaykh Sa'd accepted the invitation with pleasure.

MOSCOW SOURCE CITED ON KUWAIT-USSR CONTACTS

LD110923 Kuwait AL-HADAF in Arabic 7 May 81 p 7

[Shakir al-Jawahiri Moscow report: "Sabah al-Ahmad to Gromyko: 'Will You Intervene in the Gulf if the Americans Intervene? What Are Your Reservations Regarding the Formation of a Gulf Cooperation Council? Ousting the Americans Depends on Reconciliation Between Aden and Muscat.' Moscow replies: 'Withdrawal From Afghanistan in Return for Cancellation of U.S. Facilities in Oman'"]

[Text] When I arrived in Moscow a week after Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad's visit ended I found that Soviet officials were still savoring the atmosphere of a visit which they consider an extremely important shift in Arab-Soviet relations. The interest in the visit was evident in the concern that was apparent on the face of the Soviet Foreign Ministry official as he asked me about the repercussions of Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad's visit in the Gulf region. But I in turn put the question to him in a different form: How do you in Moscow view the results of this visit?

He said: There is no doubt that we were very happy with Shaykh Sabah's visit, particularly since it coincided with extremely important circumstances on which we have many observations and many questions. It was on these topics that the dialogue was held with your foreign minister, and it was a useful and constructive dialogue, as our Foreign Minister Andrey Gromyko said. Dialogue remains better than no dialogue. I can say that Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad's visit to Moscow gave new momentum to Arab-Soviet relations; it also raised our relations with the Gulf countries to a higher level. For our part, we are ready to do anything to develop further our relations with the Gulf countries.

The Soviet official went on to talk about the progress made in Gulf-Soviet relations thanks to the visit of Shaykh Sabah--"a man who imposes on his listeners the need to believe in the truth of what he says and to respect him as an individual and for what he says... as well because of the frank and direct manner in which he speaks."

At the first session of talks Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad explained to Soviet Foreign Minister Andrey Gromyko the aims behind the formation of the Gulf States' Cooperation Council. He stated clearly: We know the reasons for your reservations on the formation of this council. This council was formed for purely regional reasons and objectives; it has nothing to do with the superpower conflict, except from the standpoint that it is an attempt to prevent the Arab Gulf region from becoming a seat of international conflict that would bring disaster and destruction upon its countries and peoples.

We are small countries and we know our borders well, and we are not contemplating going beyond them. But on the other hand we reject, and it is our right to seek to prevent, any overstepping of these borders in our direction. The strategic aim behind the formation of the Gulf States' Cooperation Council is to seek to preserve the Arab Gulf region as a neutral area in the conflict between the major powers, as well as to keep it clear of any foreign military presence. This is compatible with President Brezhnev's proposals on neutralizing the area and evicting foreign forces from it.

When the Soviet side pointed to the military facilities agreement between the Sultanate of Oman and the United States and the sultanate's membership in the Cooperation Council, the chief of Kuwaiti diplomacy said: The formation of the Cooperation Council is not our entire political activity; our political activity also includes the efforts we are exerting to bring about a reconciliation between Aden and Muscat. Such a reconciliation, if it takes place, will remove the circumstances and justifications that prompted the Omanis to sign the U.S. facilities agreement.

You no doubt know the motives that prompted Oman to sign the facilities agreement. From the Omani viewpoint the issue is not merely the internal actions of the Oman Liberation Front but the question of the foreign support the front obtains from Aden.

Past years have proved that the Popular Front cannot overthrow the Omani regime or establish its own government in Muscat. But on the other hand it created conditions for Iranian military intervention in Oman during the shah's rule, and now it has provided justification for the signing of the U.S. facilities agreement.

If you are really disturbed by the U.S. military presence in the area, the ouster of the Americans is a matter that depends on a reconciliation between Aden and Muscat. We are aware that you can contribute effectively to the mediation efforts between the two countries. Sultan Qabus has pledged to abrogate the facilities agreement with the Americans if his country's borders with South Yemen are secured by a guarantee.

Shaykh Sabah pointed out at this juncture that Kuwait had declared its support for Brezhnev's proposals on the Gulf area as soon as they were announced, because they coincided with the area states' aims and aspirations. Shaykh Sabah said that Kuwait has declared its approval of these proposals, for he too has often stated, before and after they were announced, that the Gulf area is threatened not by the Soviet Union but by the United States. Openly, and in contacts with the United States, Britain and other European states, we have rejected the idea of the formation of rapid deployment forces for the Arab Gulf area. We have emphasized that the preservation of Arab Gulf security is the responsibility of the Gulf states alone. Moreover, we have come to you with the express objective of building balanced relations with the two big camps.

Shaykh Sabah then asked Soviet Foreign Minister Andrey Gromyko: Now that I have given you this explanation, do you still have reservations regarding the formation of the Cooperation Council? Gromyko replied: I cannot answer this question now but I will take the viewpoint you have presented to me and submit it to the "comrades" in the leadership for examination. We will then communicate our official view to you through diplomatic channels. There is no doubt that the attitude which Moscow adopts toward the Gulf Cooperation Council will determine whether or not Moscow will exert efforts to bring about a reconciliation between Aden and Muscat.

Shaykh Sabah continued by saying: If the efforts being made to reconcile Aden and Muscat were to fail, the door would remain open to increasing American intervention in the area, as well as to the possibility of mounting tension on the border between the two countries. In such a hypothetical case, would a Soviet military counterintervention take place?

Once again, Gromyko could find no answer to the question other than to say: We cannot answer this question beforehand, but if American military intervention does take place, the Soviet leadership would of necessity study the situation and its possible consequences and adopt the decision it deems appropriate in the light of the circumstances.

There is no doubt that Shaykh Sabah was able to modify the Soviet leadership's views on the situation in the Gulf and on the attitudes of the Gulf states despite the fact that he received no specific answers to the questions he put to them. This is what made my interlocutor, the official at the Soviet Foreign Ministry, feel happy with the visit.

There is no doubt that Shaykh Sabah felt the impact of the explanations he made during the official discussions. This made him ask the Soviet side to explain its own views and stance on the issues that concern the Gulf side, after he had explained the Gulf's view.

The Gulf states in fact need reassurances and not mere explanations, especially about the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan. The Kuwaiti and the Gulf view in this respect is quite clear. Brezhnev's proposals for neutralizing the Arab Gulf area and divesting it of foreign forces and bases must also apply to Afghanistan because the situation in Afghanistan affects in one way or another the situation in the Gulf. The Soviet view on this matter is also clear. The Soviet Foreign Ministry official refused from the beginning to use the words "military intervention in Afghanistan." He said: We are giving aid to Afghanistan at the request of the legitimate government of Afghanistan under former President Nur Mohammad Taraki, who persistently requested aid. He added that the aid will cease when the present president, Babrak Karmal, makes such a request.

However, what is said during the discussion sessions is different from what is said at the official meetings. The Soviet officials say that the cessation of their intervention in Afghanistan must be accompanied by the cessation of all forms of foreign intervention in the affairs of Afghanistan across the Pakistani and Iranian borders--intervention which is backed and endorsed by the United States. Despite this, the Soviet side showed flexibility on the Afghan issue only 1 week after Shaykh Sabah's departure from Moscow. In the joint statement issued on Libyan leader Mu'ammarr al-Qadhafi's visit Moscow expressed its readiness to settle the international aspects of the Afghan issue either separately or in conjunction with Gulf area security issues. Very briefly, Moscow now compares Afghanistan with Oman. Therefore the decision is not up to the Soviet Union alone: The parties who are supposed to be interested in a Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan and who do not want the Soviets to enter the Gulf must participate in reaching a decision.

The recent Soviet attitude, as seen by observers in Moscow, has stemmed from the Soviet leadership's appreciation of the importance of the Kuwaiti foreign minister's visit in view of the great influence of Kuwaiti policy in both the Arab Gulf area as well as in the Arab region. There is no doubt that this [Soviet] attitude can help Kuwaiti diplomacy take important steps toward persuading Oman to cancel the facilities agreement with Washington. It also serves as an indication of Moscow's readiness to bring pressure to bear on Aden to facilitate the mediation effort being made to reconcile it with Muscat. In the light of all this, the wise Kuwaiti diplomacy is expected to engage in new activities soon amid the intensifying light coming from the end of the long tunnel.

GOVERNMENT REDUCES OIL PRODUCTION BY 17 PERCENT

LD120916 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0715 GMT 12 May 81

[Text] Kuwait, 12 May (KUNA)--AS-SIYASAH of Kuwait today reports a government statement which says that Kuwait has decided to reduce its oil production by about 17 percent, down to 1.25 million barrels per day, retroactive to 1 April.

Kuwait reduced the ceiling of its daily output to 1.5 million barrels per day on 1 April 1980. However, AS-SIYASAH today says that according to a statement submitted by the government to the National Assembly, the parliament, this Arabian Gulf state reduced once again the top level of its production by 250,000 barrels, starting last month. The statement which detailed government policy in various spheres, says that the new production level will lengthen the life of Kuwaiti oil to about 150 years from now. The statement adds that Kuwait is showing very much interest in discovering more oil and gas deposits and that exploration operations will cover all parts of the country. The statement says that "in the coming period the country will witness unprecedented concentrated exploratory activity through preparing oil exploration programs in all parts of the country."

According to the paper, the statement says that Kuwait intends to develop its oil refining industry so that refining capacity will rise to 750,000 barrels per day, subsequently increasing the export of refined products up to 60 percent of total crude oil production. The statement says that studies have been made on increasing the capacity of Al-Ahmadi and 'Abd Allah port refineries and continuing to improve the functioning of Ash-Shu'aybah refinery. These three refineries are 40 km south of here on the Arabian Gulf coast. The statement adds that Kuwait is also planning to be a partner in building refinery units in other countries of the Gulf, Southeast Asia and West Europe.

SAUDI ARABIA

PRESS VIEWS PHILIP HABIB'S MIDEAST MISSION

1.D121342 Riyadh SPA in English 1228 GMT 12 May 81

[From the press review]

[Text] Riyadh, 12 May (SPA)--Referring to the mission of American Special Envoy Philip Habib to convert conflict between Syrian and Israel on the so-called missile crisis AL-BILAD pointed out the Israeli threats to destroy the Syrian missiles in Lebanon in spite [of] the current international efforts to defuse the relevant tension. The paper cautioned against multi or individual Arab contacts which run short of the requirement of such critical stage. There is no alternative to a collective and urgent Arab action to confront the lurking Israeli intentions to attack on Syria and the Palestinians in Lebanon and before being too late an Arab reaction. [sentence as received]

On the same subject AL-JAZIRAH observed it was natural to let Habib's mission confined to Israel alone since it was the aggressor who is against any political Lebanese, Syrian and Palestinian efforts to achieve national conciliation in Lebanon, and since it is Israel who blocks achieving this goal through its direct military intervention in Lebanon.

Achieving the political and military ambitions of Israel should not be always the prime concern of any U.S. moves through Washington partiality towards the Zionist entity with no consideration to any principles of existing realities and the justice of the Arab cause, the paper said. The paper urged the U.S. to shoulder its responsibilities in preserving peace and stability in the Middle East in general and in Lebanon in particular since it is Washington that provides Israel with every financial and military support.

U.S.-EGYPT-ISRAEL MEETINGS POSTPONED TO 25 MAY

NC121624 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1530 GMT 12 May 81

[Text] Cairo, 12 May (MENA)--MENA has learned that the U.S.-Egyptian-Israeli meetings scheduled to be held on 18 and 19 May at Mena House to discuss political, military and legal affairs have been postponed until 25, 26 and 27 May, for procedural reasons only.

U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Michael Sterner will arrive in Cairo on Saturday as scheduled. During his 2-day visit he will hold talks with Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali on the question of the Sinai peacekeeping force. Sterner's talks will be preparatory to the Mena House meetings, when he will head the U.S. delegation.

Following his visit to Cairo, Michael Sterner will go to Tel Aviv for similar talks with Israeli officials.

It has been learned that after the Mena House technical [as received], military and legal meetings, a meeting may be held at ministerial level to discuss the steps for the final withdrawal from Sinai on 25 April 1982, as well as the issue of the peacekeeping force.

Kamal Hasan 'Ali has stated that while holding consultations on the setting up of a multinational peacekeeping force for the Sinai, Egypt is continuing its contacts with the Security Council members on the question of forming a UN emergency force, because Egypt gives preference and priority to a UN emergency force over a multinational force. He said Egypt hopes that the Security Council members will grant Egypt's wish, which is in keeping with the UN Charter's stipulations on the Security Council's duty to maintain world peace.

GHALI INTERVIEWED ON SINAI PEACEKEEPING FORCE

NC091912 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1620 GMT 9 May 81

[Text] Cairo, 9 May (MENA)--Egyptian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali has said that during the tripartite discussions concerning the formation of a multinational peacekeeping force--which will be held on 18-19 May--Egypt will emphasize that the mission of this force is temporary until a UN emergency force is established to replace the peacekeeping force should the UN Security Council be able in the coming years to form the emergency force. Dr Ghali said that during these discussions, Egypt will also stress that the duty of the multinational peacekeeping force is limited to implementing the peace agreement between Egypt and Israel, and subsequently this force must not be used outside the scope of the peace treaty.

In an interview with MENA, Dr Butrus Ghali added that the formation of a multinational force is not inconsistent with the UN Charter, particularly if the UN Security Council was unable to pass a resolution on the formation of a UN emergency peacekeeping force in Sinai.

Answering a question on whether the rejection by any UN Security Council member state of the formation of a UN emergency peacekeeping force in Sinai is in line with the UN Charter in relation to the Security Council's duties and objectives, Dr Butrus Ghali said that any of the five big powers, using the right of veto to prevent the passage of a resolution in this respect, would not be in line with the spirit of the UN Charter. He added that the objectives of the United Nations include safeguarding the political independence and territorial integrity of the UN member states. He said that when Egypt asks the United Nations to form a UN emergency force to help it restore its sovereignty over its territory, this is compatible with the principles and goals of the United Nations.

Dr Ghali added: Should any of the five big powers use the right of veto to prevent the passage of a resolution on the formation of an emergency force, Egypt will be compelled to resort to the idea of establishing a multinational force outside the framework of the United Nations.

Asked about the relation of the multinational peacekeeping force in Sinai with the host state, Egypt, Dr Butrus Ghali said in his interview with MENA that this relation will be on the basis that Egyptian sovereignty must prevail and that the duty of this force is limited to implementing some provisions of the peace agreement with Israel. He added that the location or positioning of this force will be defined in an agreement among Egypt, the United States and Israel. Dr Ghali noted that in accordance with the peace agreement, these forces will be stationed in Sharm ash-Shaykh and Rafah.

On who will be responsible for directing and commanding the multinational peacekeeping force in Sinai, Dr Butrus Ghali said that this subject was being discussed and studied. He added: Naturally there will be someone responsible for this force. However, his nationality and jurisdictions will be discussed during the coming meetings.

Asked whether the early warning stations in Sinai will remain there after the formation of a UN or a multinational peacekeeping force, Dr Butrus Ghali said that this subject must also be dealt with at the coming discussions, which in this respect will include the mode of coordination between these stations, should they remain, and the multinational force and what jurisdictions these stations will have on the one hand and how the duties will be distributed between the force and the stations on the other. He added that the idea represents the need to coordinate the work between these stations on the one hand and the multinational force on the other.

Asked whether the contacts which Egypt carried out concerning the formation of the multinational force have made any progress, Dr Butrus Ghali said: There are positive answers by some friendly states. However, I cannot disclose the names of these states at present until an agreement is completed among the parties concerned.

Asked whether the United States will join the multinational force in Sinai, Dr Ghali said that he cannot answer this question now since contacts and negotiations on the subject were continuing. The United States might or might not join this force.

He added that the peace agreement did not exclude the big powers from forming the UN emergency force and the agreement did not exclude the same powers from forming the multinational force.

GHALI SAYS EGYPT WILL NOT JOIN ANY MILITARY PACT

NC121602 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 12 May 81

[Text] Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali has emphasized that Egypt is committed to the policy of nonalignment and that it will never join any military pact, especially NATO.

He affirmed that Egypt is working for a comprehensive settlement in the Middle East and for the restoration of the Palestinian people's rights.

The Arab differences, he said, are temporary, and Arab solidarity will prevail sooner or later.

Dr Ghali was lecturing today at the commanders and staff academy. He said Egypt welcomes the French people's election of Francois Mitterrand.

He also said that Egypt appreciates the importance of and welcomes the European initiative to boost the peace efforts.

Dr Ghali discussed the results of the negotiations with the Israeli side on autonomy, and the obstacles in the way of achieving autonomy.

In another statement to a Moroccan journalist, Dr Ghali said that Egypt hopes the Algerian-Moroccan disputes will be settled peacefully within the OAU framework.

GHALI SAYS EGYPT DESIRES MOROCCO-ALGERIA ACCORD

NC130815 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0640 GMT 13 May 81

[Text] Cairo, 13 May (MENA)--Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali has affirmed that Egypt wishes a peaceful settlement of the conflicts between Morocco and Algeria. AL-AHRAM today reports that Dr Butrus Ghali's statement was in answer to a question posed by ('Abd al-Ghani Dadis), deputy chief editor of MAROC, organ of the Moroccan Assembly Party, on Egypt's stand on the Polisario problem.

PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE REPORTS ON 'UTHMAN BOOK

NC121830 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1505 GMT 12 May 81

[Text] Cairo, 12 May (MENA)--The parliamentary committee formed to investigate two incidents mentioned in the book by Engineer 'Uthman Ahmad 'Uthman, published under the title "Pages From My Experience," asserts that it has not established positive evidence that the book was aimed at slandering President Jamal 'Abd an-Nasir or at impairing the July revolution or its accomplishments.

In a report that it prepared at the conclusion of its activities today under the chairmanship of People's Assembly Deputy Speaker Muhammad Rashwan, the committee says that regarding the allegation villas were built for some officials, it has no proof that public funds were used or that any of the public sector contracting companies or the Arab contractors company built such villas.

In its report, which will be submitted to the People's Assembly tomorrow, the committee says that regarding the case involving an attempt by a prime minister to buy a piece of land for investors, there is no proof that any attempt was made to sell state-owned land to investors in contradiction of the prevailing laws and regulations. This, the committee adds, dismisses the suspicion of an attempt to exploit influence.

The factfinding committee recommends the reconsideration of Publications Law No 20 of 1936 to conform with the political, social and economic developments in Egyptian society since the 23 July and 15 May revolutions, in light of the general principles on the reorganization of the state on which the public's opinion was solicited in the 19 April 1979 referendum.

The committee also recommends the reconsideration of Law No 121 of 1975, concerning the preservation of the state's official documents, in a way that would put down controls that would regulate what is publishable regarding proceedings at meetings of the Cabinet and its committees and other councils and committees, the activities of which are connected with the state's higher policy and which are specified by the law to safeguard the state's sublime interests and guarantee the public's right to learn about generally important issues.

The committee also recommends the speeding up of the publication of the accomplishments to date of the committee charged with recording the history of the July revolution, particularly the documents related to investigating the facts of the political, economic and social aspects, to serve as an honest reference to anyone who wants to study the facts and history of this revolution.

The factfinding committee's report points out that the object behind publishing the book is mainly to deal with the various stages in the life of Engineer 'Uthman Ahmad 'Uthman and to prove that the difficult situations he faced, particularly those created by some members at the center of power, did not prevent him from performing his national duty in the field of contracts or his participation in the big projects that the July revolution carried out before the High Dam project.

The report says that the committee ascertained this after examining the minutes of the People's Assembly meetings in February and April 1976 and of its discussions during which Engineer 'Uthman Ahmad 'Uthman, who was the minister of housing and reconstruction then, answered the assembly's questions.

The report further says that after referring to the statements by Engineer 'Uchman Ahmad 'Uthman in these minutes, the committee ascertained that the object of publishing his book was to place his experiences before the youth, a fact that is confirmed by his statements before the committee and by what he wrote in his book.

OFFICIALS RESPOND TO MITTERRAND'S ELECTION

As-Sadat Cable to Mitterrand

NC112044 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1945 GMT 11 May 81

[Text] Cairo, 11 May (MENA)--President Anwar as-Sadat has sent a congratulatory cable to the new French president, Francois Mitterrand, on the occasion of his election as president. The following is the text of the cable:

Mr Francois Mitterrand, president-elect of the Republic of France. I have received with satisfaction the news of your victory in the elections as president of the Republic of France, which is an expression of the will of the people--I repeat, the will of the great French people.

I, in my name and on behalf of the people of the Arab Republic of Egypt, send you sincere congratulations on the precious confidence that your friendly people put in you. I wish you continued success in achieving your people's great aspirations for further progress and prosperity.

On this happy occasion, it pleases me to praise the leading French role in support of the peace march in the Middle East, within the framework of the Camp David accords. My people and I are looking forward to the continuation of this constructive role, so that the people of this area will enjoy security and stability. I send you best and sincerest regards and wishes for good health and happiness.

'Ali Welcomes Election

NC111720 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1430 GMT 11 May 81

[Text] Cairo, 11 May (MENA)--Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali has stated that Egypt welcomes the French people's choice of Francois Mitterrand as president of France, particularly because of his encouraging views on the Middle East, the current peace efforts and the Palestinian question. This was contained in a statement 'Ali made today in commenting on the results of yesterday's French elections.

An official Egyptian source has also welcomed the election of Francois Mitterrand as the president of France, saying that he is famous for several specific stands--mainly his support of the Third World and the Arab stand. In a statement today, the source said that Mitterrand's policy conforms with that of Egypt and that he has good relations with it.

The source added: We hope that under Mitterrand France will play a positive role inside the European group in pushing forward the Middle East peace efforts. The official source pointed out that Mitterrand has an active policy regarding Africa and many world states and that he supports peace and the efforts of President as-Sadat in this regard.

Ghali Welcomes Election

NC110724 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0645 GMT 11 May 81

[Text] Cairo, 11 May (MENA)--Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali has stated that Egypt welcomes the French people's election of Francois Mitterrand as their new president. He added that Egypt expects France to play a constructive role in connection with the Middle East problem within the framework of the European initiative and also in the course of other French efforts. AL-AHRAM says that responsible sources in Egypt believe that the new French president supports Palestinian rights, including the right to a Palestinian state, and that he plays a role in the socialist international. This role was confirmed in the Madrid meetings.

HAMMADI SAYS SYRIA WOULD BE HELPED IF ATTACKED

JN131155 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1135 GMT 13 May 81

[Text] London, 13 May (INA)--Iraqi Foreign Minister Dr Sa'dun Hammadi has said that Iraq will not stand idly by if Israel attacked Syria. In an interview with the newspaper ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT published here today, he added that despite the stand of the Libyan and Syrian Governments against Iraq in its just war against the Khomeyni regime, Iraq will fight alongside Syria despite its relationship with the Syrian regime.

On Iraq's war against the Iranian regime, the foreign minister reiterated Iraq's demands for legal recognition of its land border as confirmed in previous agreements between the two countries, full sovereignty over the Shatt al-'Arab and Iran's withdrawal from the three Arab islands and nonintervention in Iraq's domestic affairs and those of the Arab countries overlooking the Gulf.

The Iraqi minister described the European initiative as a middle-of-the-road stand between the Camp David accords and the Baghdad summit resolutions. He said: "We cannot agree to any solution that is less than the Baghdad summit resolutions." He added: The European initiative is in the right direction and indicates positive development. However, as far as substance and method are concerned, we do not see in it any possibility for a solution.

On the recent arms deal between Iraq and Egypt, the minister asserted that it was a pure commercial transaction and that it is wrong to attach to it any other significance.

Concluding his statement, Dr Sa'dun Hammadi stressed that Iraq does not intend to restore diplomatic relations with the United States as long as there is no important basic change in its stand on the Arab-Zionist conflict.

ZIAUR RAHMAN, HABIB CHATTI MEET WITH PRESIDENT

JN121752 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1715 GMT 12 May 81

[Text] Baghdad, 12 May (INA)--Bangladesh President Ziaur Rahman left Baghdad for Tehran this evening at the end of a brief visit of several hours to Baghdad. He was accorded an official sendoff, headed by President Saddam Husayn. Also seeing him off were Vice President Taha Muhyi ad-Din Ma'ruf, First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yasin Ramadan, National Assembly Speaker Na'im Haddad, Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz and a number of ministers. Habib Chatti, secretary general of the Islamic Conference Organization, who arrived in Baghdad from Jidda before noon today, left on the same plane.

Presidents Saddam Husayn and Ziaur Rahman today held two closed sessions of talks. The Iraqi and Bangladesh sides led by the two presidents then held a meeting during which they reviewed the activities undertaken by the Islamic good offices committee on the Iraqi-Iranian conflict. President Saddam Husayn stressed Iraq's principled and consistent stands as well as its sincere desire to reach a just and honorable settlement of the conflict that guarantees Iraq's just rights. He also stressed Iraq's sincere cooperation with the Islamic good offices committee out of its faith in the principles and objectives approved by the third Islamic conference in At-Ta'if.

President Ziaur Rahman expressed his appreciation for Iraq's positive stands and its full cooperation with the committee.

Habib Chatti, secretary general of the Islamic Conference Organization, attended the meeting. It was also attended on the Iraqi side by Vice President Taha Muhyi ad-Din Ma'ruf, First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yasin Ramadan, National Assembly Speaker Na'im Haddad, Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz and a number of the ministers. It was attended on the Bangladesh side by the delegation accompanying President Ziaur Rahman.

ARMED FORCES GENERAL COMMAND COMMUNIQUE 334

JN121723 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 12 May 81

[Communique No 334 issued by Iraqi Armed Forces General Command on 12 May]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our capable armed forces continued their activities in the operational sectors last night and today with the following results:

I. Known enemy losses:

- A. Our units hit with all sorts of weapons enemy troop concentrations in the Nowsud region and forced them to flee after suffering 28 killed.
- B. An enemy troop concentration was sighted opposite our positions in the Gilan-e Charb region. Our units hit it hard and forced it to retreat, leaving behind 24 dead. Our units also destroyed two infantry positions in the same region.
- C. Two were killed and one observation post was destroyed in the Mehran region.
- D. Our units hit with all weapons enemy concentrations and positions in the Dezful region, killing 18 and destroying 1 field gun; 4 vehicles, 3 laden with ammunition; 1 observation post; and 1 ammunition stockpile.
- E. An enemy infantry concentration was sighted in the Shush region. Our units hit it with various weapons and forced it to flee after suffering 23 killed. Our units also destroyed one observation post and one ammunition stockpile in the same region.
- F. Our units hit with all sorts of weapons enemy positions and concentrations in the Abadan region, killing 19 and destroying 1 infantry position, 3 field guns, 1 excavator, 3 observation posts and 3 ammunition stockpiles.

Thus, total known enemy losses amount to 114 dead, 3 infantry posts, 4 field guns of various calibers, 4 vehicles, 1 excavator, 6 observation posts and 5 ammunition stockpiles.

II. A patrol of one of our advanced units discovered the bodies of seven enemy troops killed in the latest battle at Sar-e Pol-e Zahab. They were buried in the same region.

III. Our losses:

- A. In personnel: Twelve martyrs in all sectors.
- B. In equipment: One personnel carrier, five vehicles and one field gun were damaged.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 12 May 1981

OIL COOPERATION CONTRACTS SIGNED WITH USSR 8 MAY

JN082043 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2030 GMT 8 May 81

[Text] Moscow, 8 May (INA)--Iraq and the Soviet Union signed here today contracts on oil cooperation between the Iraqi National Oil Company [INOC] and specialized Soviet establishments.

The contracts were signed following the conclusion of talks between a delegation representing INOC led by Dr Hashim al-Kharsan, president of the Iraqi state establishment of northern oil, and Soviet Tekhnoeksport and Soviet Oil Ministry officials.

MINISTER SAYS ISRAEL EXPLOITING LEBANON CRISIS

JN121511 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1455 GMT 12 May 81

[Text] Amman, 12 May (PETRA)--Information Minister Adnan Abu 'Awdah has stated that it has become clear from the events of the past 2 weeks in Lebanon that Israel is utilizing the missile crisis to occupy new Lebanese territory and strike at the Palestinian resistance groupings in Lebanon.

In a statement to AFP, the minister added that Israeli officials' recent statements, the Israeli forces' concentrations on the Lebanese border and the repeated attacks against southern Lebanon during the past 2 weeks are evidence of Israel's objectives.

PRESS BLAMES ISRAELIS FOR MISSILE CRISIS

JN130842 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 13 May 81

[Press review]

[Excerpts] This morning's newspapers editorialize on the so-called Syrian missile crisis in Lebanon, which was provoked by Israel to justify its new phase of aggressive designs toward Lebanon and the refugee camps in it. It seems that the purpose of the Israeli military concentrations on the Lebanese border is to escalate the situation in Lebanon so as to use and exploit the missile crisis to occupy new Lebanese land and strike at the Palestinian resistance.

In an editorial entitled "Confrontation With the Enemy Is a Pan-Arab Responsibility", the newspaper AD-DUSTUR says: The serious developments in Lebanon confirm that Israel is trying to achieve a strategic objective which will guarantee achievement of its expansionist designs in Lebanese territories, turning its military presence into practical participation in redrawing the map of the Lebanese homeland and interfering in Lebanese internal affairs to guarantee what it refers to as Israel's security interests.

It seems clear that Israel is deliberately escalating the situation and pushing it toward the brink of military confrontation to achieve this strategic objective, exploiting the missile crisis to obtain maximum gains through blackmail, while depending on U.S. support and aid.

It is clear, as Information Minister Adnan Abu 'Awdah has said, that Israel, by means of its military concentrations on the Lebanese border, aims to continue its attacks, escalate the situation in Lebanon, and use and exploit the missile crisis to occupy new Lebanese territories and to strike at the Palestinian resistance concentrations.

The serious situation in Lebanon and Israel's attempt to impose its role as an effective partner upon the Lebanese arena have presented the Lebanese crisis in a new form which requires a unified, comprehensive Arab strategy and a positive Arab stand which will cancel the Israeli role in Lebanon and will foil the Zionist and U.S. designs aimed at plunging the area into the whirlpool of international conflict to cancel the Arab and Lebanese roles in settling the Lebanese crisis.

AD-DUSTUR goes on to say: The Arabs must realize that the Israeli danger threatens not only Lebanon but the whole area.

Begin, through his successive threats, has chosen the difficult course. This requires that the Arab countries prepare for a practical and collective confrontation, return quickly to the umbrella of solidarity and unified pan-Arab action, rise to the level of pan-Arab responsibility, cast off differences and emotionalism and unite their stand so as to put all efforts and political, economic and military potential at the service of confronting the Israeli challenge and stopping the vicious Zionist attack, which has become a cancer encroaching on the body of the whole Arab nation and threatening its fate and existence.

Under the title "Our View of the Missile Issue," AR-RA'Y writes: It is no longer a secret that the so-called Syrian missile crisis in Lebanon is an artificial crisis provoked by Israel to justify its new phase of aggressive designs toward Lebanon and the Palestinian refugee camps there, now that this new phase of designs is ready for implementation. This is how Jordan sees the issue, as formulated by the information minister.

Clearly, these missiles were not set up until after Israeli military belligerency in Lebanese airspace increased. This belligerency has lasted a long time and has taken the form of blatant aggression on the sovereignty of Lebanon and violation of all international laws and conventions.

It is unreasonable that Israel should imagine, even for one minute, that it has earned the right to wreak havoc in Lebanese airspace without being checked, or that its practices in that direction can continue indefinitely.

Moreover, Israel does not have the right to object to these missiles because they are Syrian. Whether they are Syrian, Lebanese or otherwise is an issue that concerns Lebanon, not Israel. If Israel is afraid of these missiles, it should keep away from Lebanese airspace.

Any country is entitled to deploy the appropriate defensive arms on its territories, and Israel is not entitled to determine the type of defensive weapons to exist on Lebanese territory or their sources, nor is it entitled to object to the sides which operate them, because this is an issue which is first and foremost of concern to Lebanon.

AR-RA'Y goes on to say: Begin, by exaggerating and escalating the missile issue and openly calling for war, wants to create the atmosphere for undertaking a new expansion inside Lebanon. He also wants to appear as the Samson of this era to Israeli voters and to provoke new complications to abort the European role and keep the region and the basic issue prisoner to Israeli hegemony.

Begin's arrogance, which has spurred him to attack Giscard d'Estaing, Schmidt, the German people and Kreisky and to enter into an argument yesterday with Van der Klaauw, the Netherlands foreign minister and representative of the EC countries, accusing these countries of adopting a mercenary policy toward the Arabs and the deliberate escalating of the missile issue must be restrained by Washington. Otherwise, this arrogance might lead to disastrous consequences which transcend this area.

It is true that Philip Habib, the envoy of the U.S. administration, is still undertaking his efforts. Even so, it is clear that Israel continues to make threats and violate Lebanese airspace as if it were racing with time to push the area into disaster as quickly as it can.

The U.S. administration should remember that playing around with peace should not be left to Begin to play as an election card and that the realization of more Israeli designs on Lebanese territory could lead to great risks. Therefore, Washington is called on to give the red light to the Israeli prime minister, who is behaving with the same mentality as he used to when he was leader of the terrorist Irgun Zvai Leumi organization.

Efforts for a just peace, not war, should take their course. The Arabs, for their part, have more than once affirmed their sincere desire for a comprehensive peace, while Begin continues to shout war cries openly. Washington should realize the consequences of this before it is too late.

SARKIS, FRENCH AMBASSADOR DISCUSS DEVELOPMENTS

NC121806 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 12 May 81

[Text] At noon today President Ilyas Sarkis received French Ambassador to Lebanon Louis Delamare in the presence of Foreign Minister Fu'ad Butrus.

Following the meeting, the French ambassador made a statement in which he said: I met with President Sarkis to discuss the regional crisis and its international ramifications. We also discussed the possible developments in this crisis. The discussion also dealt with the future outlook in light of the election of Mitterrand as president of France.

Asked whether there will be a peaceful or military solution to the crisis, the French ambassador replied: The problem has been very difficult up to now, and things are in the balance. He denied that he conveyed any message from his government on the recent developments.

ALGERIAN AMBASSADOR GIVES AL-WAZZAN MESSAGE

NC121756 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 12 May 81

[Text] Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan this morning received the Algerian ambassador to Lebanon, Mustafa Hashmawi, and discussed with him developments in the Lebanese situation. Following the meeting, the Algerian ambassador said:

[Begin recording] The meeting was devoted to an exchange of views on the Lebanese situation.

[Question] Was your meeting important in view of the fact, as you have stated, that Algeria is showing interest in the situation in Lebanon?

[Answer] Very much.

[Question] After you were summoned by the Algerian Government, what did you bring back with you concerning this interest to the Lebanese Government?

[Answer] What I have brought is at the disposal of the authorities. They are responsible for it. I conveyed the message.

[Question] What did the message you handed to his excellency the president contain?

[Answer] He has the message, and he can tell you about it.

[Question] Do you have big hopes regarding the situation in Lebanon? Are you optimistic about the situation?

[Answer] We are always optimistic, and we hope things will improve soon, God willing.
[end recording]

INDEPENDENT PARLIAMENTARY BLOC DISCUSSES SITUATION

NC121520 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 12 May 81

[Text] The independent parliamentary bloc held a meeting today at the Carlton Hotel under the chairmanship of Chamber of Deputies Speaker Kamil al-As'ad. The meeting was attended by the ministers who are members of the bloc, and 20 deputies.

After the approximately 2-hour meeting, Speaker al-As'ad said that they reviewed the crisis from all sides, beginning with the side that is threatening peace in the area. He stressed the general Arab responsibility in this regard. He added that the bloc condemns the criminal indiscriminate shelling of Beirut and its suburbs, and believes that the purpose of this shelling is to undermine any possibility of a solution in the future. We asked the bloc ministers to demand of the government at tomorrow's Cabinet meeting, if it is held, that it disclose which party begins the shelling and violates the cease-fire.

LIBYANS REPORTEDLY OPERATING ARTILLERY IN BEIRUT

NC121314 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 12 May 81

[Text] Informed sources reported today that some of the artillery shells and rockets that are directed at the eastern area and Kasrawan come from the hotel area near Al-Cazar and (Mar Simon). These sources reported that elements of the Libyan Army are firing these 130-mm guns.

VOL REPORTS ACTIVITIES OF SYRIANS IN LEBANON

Al-Biq'a' Commander Replaced

NC121938 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 12 May 81

[Text] According to information received by the Voice of Lebanon, the Syrian command has relieved Maj Gen Sa'id at-Tayyan, the commander of Syrian forces in Al-Biq'a', and replaced him with Major General (Bayraqdar).

Planes to Al-Qulay'at

NC121950 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 12 May 81

[Text] The Syrian authorities have ordered all voice and transmission engineers of the Syrian broadcasting station to cancel all leaves. In the meantime, reports from Syria state that Damascus airport was closed for 2 hours today for unknown reasons.

The Syrian forces have brought warplanes to Lebanon's Al-Qulay'at airfield in 'Akkar and installed two missile batteries there. They have also installed SAM missile batteries in Latakia.

Armor to Al-Masna'

NC130728 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 13 May 81

[Text] Press correspondents in Al-Biq'a' reported that the Syrians have been reinforcing their positions in Al-Masna' with many armored vehicles. Syrian mechanized movements were seen during the night on the Barr Ilyas and Al-Karak roads.

Sunni Families Relocated

NC122044 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 12 May 81

[Text] According to reports received by the Voice of Lebanon a few minutes ago, about 400 Syrian Sunni families have left for villages in 'Akkar, particularly the villages of Al-Mashta, Wadi Khalid, Akrum and (Zuq al-'Abid).

ISRAEL REPORTEDLY INSTALLS RADAR IN SOUTH

NC121940 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 12 May 81

[Text] The Voice of Lebanon learned a short while ago that Israel has installed radar equipment on Tallat Irmith, opposite (San'a), in the western sector. It has also set up barricades and dug trenches near (Mazra'at Dayr Hanna) in Al-Bayyadiyah, at a short distance from An-Naqurah.

ISRAELI PLANES DRAW GROUND FIRE OVER BEIRUT

NC130833 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 13 May 81

[Text] An atmosphere of relaxation has been observed in Beirut although intermittent clashes broke out during the night on the commercial axes lasting until this morning. However, at 0940 today Israeli Air Force planes flew over Beirut, drawing ground fire.

SECURITY SITUATION IN BEIRUT, SOUTH REPORTED

Calm in Beirut

NC121238 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 12 May 81

[Text] At this time, the security situation in Beirut and its suburbs is maintaining its relative calm after a period of mad indiscriminate shelling which the capital has witnessed since yesterday afternoon until the early hours of the morning. This shelling caused scores of casualties among innocent citizens.

However, caution continues to prevail on all contact lines and axes, where the sound of bursts of gunfire and explosions can be heard from time to time. So far no casualties have been reported.

Compared with the past few days, traffic was light in both sectors of the capital out of fear of a resumption of the clashes and because of an atmosphere of pessimism which, according to press reports, prevails in the country. The anticipation regarding the deterioration of the situation in the area and the fear of an outbreak of war also affected the level of traffic.

Tension in South

NC130734 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 13 May 81

[Text] In southern Lebanon, tension continues to dominate the southern sectors, particularly Tyre, Sidon, An-Nabatiyan and the Palestinian camps, following the Israeli flights and coastal surveillance by Israeli gunboats. Reports indicated that Israeli gunboats were seen opposite Al-Awza'i and Ad-Damur. They withdrew only at dusk.

In Kafr Tibni in the An-Nabatiyah district, tension prevailed following armed clashes between elements of the Amal Movement and the Socialist Labor Party.

VOL REPORTS MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD CLASH IN SYRIA

NC121612 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 12 May 81

[Text] Twenty persons were killed and some houses were burned down when Syrian special forces units clashed with members of the Muslim Brotherhood in the Sarmada area near (Sarim), in the suburbs of Hamah.

At the end of last week special forces units raided houses in the area, killing no fewer than 20 citizens and burning down their houses. This was followed by clashes between Sunnis and 'Alawites. The special forces units killed six Sunnis, including a woman and a child.

According to information received by the Voice of Lebanon, a senior officer succeeded in escaping after refusing to comply with orders to shell a tank group that had been sent to besiege his group. [sentence as heard]

Meanwhile, barricades have been put up at the entrance of Hamah to isolate it from other Syrian towns.

DAMASCUS SAYS ISRAELI PLANE DOWNED OVER LEBANON

JN121854 Damascus Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1850 GMT 12 May 81

[Text] We have just received the following: A military spokesman has stated that at 0450 today, 12 May 1981, our forces operating within the Arab Deterrent Forces in Lebanon downed an Israeli reconnaissance plane that was flying over the Al-Biqa' region.

TV Report

JN122240 [Editorial Report] Damascus Domestic Television Service in Arabic at 2210 GMT carries the Syrian military spokesman's statement on the downing of an Israeli plane, after which it carries an approximately 90-second film clip, without soundtrack, showing what appears to be the wreckage of a propeller-driven plane with a camouflaged body and Hebraic- and English-language markings, including the numerals "203." No information is given on the location of the wreckage.

ISRAEL'S 'AGGRESSION WILL NOT GO UNPUNISHED'

JN130710 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 13 May 81

[From the press review]

[Text] In its column "Voice of ATH-THAWRAH" under the headline "The Policy of Zionist Aggression Will Not Go Unpunished," the newspaper ATH-THAWRAH says: The Zionist enemy is beset with illusions if it thinks that by escalating tension and continuing the policy of aggression and threats--supported by imperialism--it can crush the will of Arab steadfastness embodied in Syria's unwavering and principled stand and in the Arab masses' support for it.

This enemy is ignoring a basic fact that cannot be ignored or sidestepped: Syria, which represents the Arabs' conscience and embodies their historic stand at this stage, cannot allow the peddling of Israel's schemes and U.S. imperialism's machinations through a policy of aggression, pressures, threats and resort to force. When Syria raised the banner of steadfastness in the name of all the Arab masses to confront the policy of surrender and defeatism, it realized the dimensions of its stand and its responsibilities and burdens which this stand entails.

By hitting two Syrian helicopters on a supply mission in Al-Biqa', Israel thought that it could stretch out its aggressive arm against this part of the Arab homeland to threaten the presence of the Arab Deterrent Forces [ADF] and Syria's security. When Syria provided protection for the ADF, which are legitimate forces in Lebanon, Israel and the United States raised a loud clamor because they want the planes of Israeli aggression to be safe and unchecked while they are killing, bombing and committing acts of aggression. However, Syria's just stand and courageous reply drove imperialism and Israel out of their senses. The downing of the Israeli reconnaissance plane over Al-Biqa' yesterday by the ADF's ground defenses confirmed the fact that Israel's continued aggression and its air force's sorties on aggressive missions in Lebanon cannot go unpunished.

Reiterating Syria's stand, ATH-THAWRAH says: Lebanon's security is part of Syria's security. Safeguarding Lebanon's unity and Arabism and foiling the plot to partition and Zionize it is a pan-Arab task that Syria is carrying out. It will continue to carry out this task until Lebanon emerges from its ordeal strong, healthy and united.

Syria has asserted that safeguarding the Palestinian revolution and masses represents a fateful and crucial stand for it from which there can be no withdrawal. Our struggle alongside our Palestinian people will continue until our just cause to liberate the land and seize our rights triumphs.

In the current confrontation of the Zionist enemy and the forces which support it, Syria reaffirms its absolute determination to confront and repulse aggression strongly and courageously because we are defending a just cause. Imperialist and Zionist threats, pressures, war machines and aggression cannot shake our stand. Our people, who are rallying around their leadership and its courageous stand, have the initiative and are waging a just battle. Their revolutionary depth is the Arab masses throughout the Arab homeland and all the forces of freedom and progress in the world which have expressed their firm support for our struggle against the forces of aggression.

A battle of such dimensions will inevitably lead to the triumph of our struggling masses who are waging a most honorable battle in defense of the Arab nation and its honor, dignity and existence.

'FIRM CONFRONTATION' POSITION WILL BE MAINTAINED

JN121435 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 12 May 81

[Station commentary]

[Text] It was not unexpected for the Israeli enemy to escalate its onslaught against Syria as a result of Syria's serious efforts to achieve national accord in Lebanon and persistent endeavors to put an end to the abnormal situation being suffered by our brothers in fraternal Lebanon.

The declaration by the enemy's prime minister that only a miracle could solve the so-called crisis with Syria by diplomatic means and his threat that, if Syria does not withdraw its missiles from Lebanon, orders will be given to the Israeli Air Force to act shows not only enemy's intention to launch a wide-scale attack on Syria and Lebanon but also shows the U.S. intention to give free rein to the Israeli enemy in Lebanon--which is desired and longed for by this enemy--and U.S. encouragement of this enemy to practice all methods and resort to all means to wrest a concession that it has a part to play in what is going on--or rather, what should be going on--in Lebanon.

As the enemy's prime minister uttered threats against Syria, he affirmed that he received a message from U.S. President Reagan and asserted that this message was different from all the messages received by the Israeli rulers from previous U.S. Presidents. He even reiterated what he had previously affirmed: The Israeli planes will continue to freely use Lebanese airspace.

There are also other signs related to what the enemy leaders describe as giving additional time to the United States to tackle the situation, which proceeds from the premise of the reality of alliance between them.

The enemy's recent threats against Syria are not new to this enemy's aggressive nature. Indeed, these threats stem from the essence of the enemy's aggressive presence. If the enemy did not have a pretext like the so-called crisis of the Syrian missiles in Lebanon, it would have fabricated another pretext and whatever would contribute to continuing the abnormal situation experienced by Lebanon, thus paving the way for the implementation of the Zionist schemes there.

The enemy fabricated the pretext of protecting the Christians in order to justify its attacks. Thus, when, as a result of Syria's sincere efforts to achieve reconciliation, the falsehood of this pretext was exposed, the enemy resorted to the missiles pretext.

The entire world is aware of the traditional Zionist pretexts ranging from that of the Palestinian resistance's presence in the south to the so-called safeguarding of Israel's security, all of which were fabricated by the enemy to establish the so-called border strip and justify its daily attacks on Lebanon.

The real premise of Israel's new threats is to continue the policy of dividing and destroying Lebanon and to carry out a preemptive strike [tawjih dharbah ijhadiyah ila Syria] against Syria and its army, thus paving the way for imposing a joint [as heard] Zionist hegemony over all the Arab states and their capabilities and resources.

Syria--the Arab Syria--will not be frightened by threats of attacks. Indeed, the enemy's campaigns against Syria will not make it less determined to continue its pan-Arab march of liberation. Under the leadership of Comrade Struggler Hafiz al-Asad, Syria will remain in the position of firm confrontation of all the enemy's schemes and attacks, however great its sacrifices may be and whatever the size of the aid received by the enemy from its masters, allies and agents.

SPEECHES MARK OPENING OF ARAB PEOPLE'S CONFERENCE

JN130532 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 12 May 81

[Text] Damascus--The second session of the Permanent Secretariat of the Arab People's Conference began in the conference hall at the Ba'th Party National Command building this evening.

At the beginning of the session 'Umar al-Hamidi, secretary general of the Permanent Secretariat of the Arab People's Conference, delivered a speech in which he praised the steadfastness of Arab Syria and its confrontation of the imperialist-Israeli conspiracy now taking place in the Lebanese arena. Al-Hamidi called on all the militant Arab forces to stand united at the side of revolutionary Syria because its steadfastness and its defense of Lebanon--territory and people--and of the Palestinian revolution means the defense of the Arab nation's dignity and existence. Al-Hamidi referred to the need for completing measures to establish Libyan-Syrian unity because it is the only road that will preserve the Arab nation's pride and dignity. At the end of his speech he greeted militant Syria under its Ba'th Party and its secretary general, Comrade Struggler Hafiz al-Asad.

Muhammad Zuhdi an-Nashashibi, PLO Executive Committee member, then delivered a speech in which he conveyed the greetings of the Palestinian revolution fighters to the Permanent Secretariat of the conference. He pledged to the Arab nation that the struggle against the Zionist enemy will continue regardless of sacrifice. He said: Syrian-Palestinian-Lebanese cohesion and the steadfast stand of the Syrian Arab Armed Forces as part of the Arab Deterrent Forces will suffice to confront and foil the conspiracy.

Muhsin Ibrahim, the executive secretary general of the Lebanese National Movement, delivered a speech in which he shed light on the current Arab situation and what is taking place in the Lebanese arena, because what is taking place there is a picture of the battle that is being waged against the entire Arab nation. Ibrahim then reviewed the course of events and the dimensions of the conspiracy that is being carried out by the Phalangist gangs and Israel on Lebanese territory. He stressed commitment to Syria's national and pan-Arab stand because it defends Lebanon's rights. He added: As Lebanese citizens, we appreciate and are proud of Syria, its army and all the martyrs who are falling to defend Lebanon. He said: I greet Syria's steadfastness under its Ba'th Party and its secretary general, Comrade Struggler Hafiz al-Asad.

Ibrahim reiterated support for Syria and the Palestinian revolution and stressed that the struggle will continue to protect every inch of Lebanese soil, regardless of the difficulties. He added: The Lebanese-Palestinian-Syrian alliance has never been stronger than it is now. He said: The legitimacy of the presence of the Syrian Arab forces is not merely part of pan-Arab security but also is a result of the will of the Lebanese themselves.

At the end of his speech he called for supporting Syria and the Palestinian revolution because this would protect the Arab identity and embody Arab steadfastness.

'Abd ar-Rahman al-Khamisi delivered a speech on behalf of the Egyptian Nationalist Movement. He spoke about the dimensions of the onslaught to which the Arab nation has been subjected.

Comrade Tawfiq Salihah, Ba'th Party Regional Command member, delivered a speech on behalf of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party. He said: It gives us pleasure to welcome you as strugglers in revolutionary Syria. We welcome you all in the name of our masses, the command of our party and its Secretary General, Comrade Struggler Hafiz al-Asad, president of the Syrian Arab Republic. We stress the importance of this meeting and the resolutions that will be issued commensurate with the serious circumstances through which our comprehensive struggle with the enemy forces is passing.

Brothers, the Camp David agreements have been exposed as being just a deal of agency among As-Sadat, Washington and Tel Aviv and they have failed to extend to other areas, as a result of the steadfastness of our Arab masses. This steadfastness has been embodied by Arab Syria at all levels under the leadership of Comrade Struggler Hafiz al-Asad, secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party.

SOVIET SOLIDARITY DELEGATION CONDUCTS MEETINGS

Ba'th Party Official

JN121350 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 12 May 81

[Text] Damascus--Comrade Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah, assistant regional secretary of the Ba'th Party and chairman of the Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee in Syria, today received the delegation of the Soviet Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee headed by Khamdan Umarov, first secretary of the Fergana Oblast Party Committee in the Uzbek SSR and deputy chairman of the solidarity committee.

The discussion at the meeting dealt with the friendly relations existing between the two friendly countries and ways to strengthen them and with the Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee's role in unmasking and exposing U.S. imperialist and Zionist methods, which are aimed, through continuous challenges and aggression, against the Lebanese and Palestinian people, and at trying to drag revolutionary Syria into positions of capitulation in order to carry out their schemes in the Arab region and cast doubt on the stands of the friendly Soviet Union toward our pan-Arab issues.

Umarov praised the Syrian Arab people's struggle under the leadership of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and its secretary general, President Hafiz al-Asad, against the imperialist, Zionist and reactionary schemes, stressing that the Syrian Arab people's just issue will inevitably triumph. He declared that Syria is not alone in its heroic struggle and steadfastness, but that all peace-loving forces, headed by the Soviet Union, stand by its side.

Concluding his statement, Umarov expressed the Soviet Union's full support for the Palestinian Arab people's right to return to their homeland, determine their destiny and establish their national independent state on their national soil.

PLO Officials

JN130521 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 12 May 81

[Text] Damascus--Palestine National Council Speaker Khalid al-Fahum has reviewed with the delegation of the Soviet Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee under Comrade Khamdan Umarov the latest Palestinian developments in light of the Zionist military escalation in southern Lebanon.

Mahmud 'Abbas, PLO Executive Committee member and president of the Palestinian-Soviet Friendship Society, also received Umarov and discussed with him the current situation.

Al-Fahum and 'Abbas explained to the Soviet delegation the aggressive objectives of the Zionist policy and of the Isolationist forces in Lebanon. They stressed that purpose of this policy is to enable the United States to impose its hegemony over the area.

The guest delegation reiterated the Soviet Union's principled stand in support of the struggle of Syria and the PLO to confront Zionist aggression.

PFLO CABLE PRAISES SYRIA'S STEADFASTNESS

JN121442 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 12 May 81

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad has received a cable of greetings and support from the PFLO Central Executive Committee expressing in the name of the front's leadership for heroic Syria--its party, government and people.

The cable stressed that Syria's steadfastness under President Hafiz al-Asad in confronting the plots of U.S. imperialism, Zionism and the isolationist forces in Lebanon is considered defense of the entire Arab nation and of the destiny of this nation, which is today exposed to the fiercest plot to subjugating it to imperialist-Zionist hegemony and influence.

The cable added that the current moves of U.S. imperialism in the Arab Gulf region, the establishment of military bases in Oman, the confrontation of the Omani revolution under the PFLO and the plotting against the PDRY are closely linked to the plotting in Lebanon against the Arab nation. The cable called on the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front's states and all the patriotic and progressive Arabs from the ocean to the Gulf to effectively support Syria's heroic stand at all levels in order to foil all the plots against Syria, the Palestinian revolution and the Lebanese National Movement.

AS-ASAD CONGRATULATES FRENCH PRESIDENT-ELECT

JN111719 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 11 May 81

[Text] Damascus--President Hafiz al-Asad has sent a cable of congratulations to Francois Mitterrand on his being elected president of the French Republic. The following is the text of the cable:

It pleases me, after the announcement of the results of the French presidential elections, to send you my sincere congratulations on the confidence bestowed on you by the French people. I wish you success in your future responsibilities.

I hope that under your presidency, France will play the role entrusted to it by the principles of the French revolution and France's position in the European Community in order to support the people's right to freedom, justice, equality and self-determination and to support work for the sake of peace based on justice.

I also hope that relations between Syria and France will develop for the good of our people. Please accept my wishes for your health and happiness and prosperity for the friendly French people.

KNESSET ENDORSES BEGIN ANNOUNCEMENTS ON LEBANON

TA121738 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 12 May 81

[Text] This evening, the Knesset endorsed Begin's announcements to the Knesset yesterday and today on the issue of Lebanon by a majority vote. Fifty-one members of the coalition voted for the endorsement of the announcement; 39 members of the opposition voted against it. The Alignment, Shinuy and the Civil Rights Movement submitted their own proposal calling on the prime minister to refrain from making belligerent declarations, urging the continuation of the diplomatic efforts and for doing everything so that the Israeli Air Force is free to fly over Lebanese skies. These factions also protested Mr Begin's disclosures regarding the order issued to the air force.

Correspondent Tzvi Yisre'eli notes that in his reply the prime minister did not report to the Knesset about his talks with U.S. Envoy Philip Habib. Mr Begin explained the disclosure about the order issued to the air force by saying that claims had been rife in the public that the government had not taken care of attacking the missiles at an earlier stage. Most of Begin's speech was an argument with MK Peres and other members of the opposition. Our correspondent notes that the debate was very stormy and saturated with an election atmosphere.

Further Details

TA121640 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 12 May 81

[Text] A short while ago Prime Minister Menahem Begin stated at the Knesset that his disclosures yesterday regarding the order for the Israeli Air Force to bombard the missiles in Lebanon were not improvised but thoroughly calculated. He said that two contradictory claims are being leveled at the government: the first one, that the government postponed the attack on the missiles and, the second one, that it was leading the people into a war by not exhausting the diplomatic process. Begin said he countered the claim about postponing the destruction of the missiles through the disclosure of the orders he had issued to the air force. The prime minister added that he was certain he had not divulged any secret, and a very authoritative person with whom he discussed the issue also said that the disclosure was negligible.

The prime minister argued with MK Shulamit Aloni, who yesterday called on him not to send our children to death and said that she had not gone through the experiences he had gone through in his life and had not sent people to a deathly and dangerous battle and, unlike him, she had not signed the peace treaty. The prime minister said he has done and would continue to do everything to prevent a war and the Cabinet ministers have been discussing this subject day and night.

The prime minister argued with all the speakers who raised their claims against him in their speeches yesterday. Begin's speech lasted for over one hour. Correspondent Tzvi Yisre'eli notes that the prime minister's speech was extremely harsh and was conducted amid a very stormy atmosphere and unceasing heckling. The prime minister said he had wanted to conclude the debate with a vast agreement of the factions upon one sentence stating: The Knesset determines that the previous situation in Lebanon must be restored. However, the Alignment refused to join. Hence, the prime minister asked the Knesset to endorse the announcements he made yesterday and today.

MK Abba Eban submitted a joint announcement of the Alignment, Shinuy, the Civil Rights Movement and the United Arab List [the Alignment's announcement reads]: The Knesset calls on the prime minister to refrain from making declarations that might offset the efforts to prevent a war. The Alignment also urges that the diplomatic activity should continue as well as activities to strengthen the settlers in the north. This proposal also urges the government not to put up with the continued stationing of the missiles [in Lebanon].

U.S. 'COMPROMISE IDEAS' ON MISSILE ISSUE REPORTED

TA130619 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 13 May 81

[Text] The United States wants to reduce the presence of the two sides in conflict in Lebanon. Correspondent Razi Barqay reports that in his meetings in Israel and in Damascus, Philip Habib put forward compromise ideas by which, in return for the pulling back of the missiles and their removal from Lebanon, the presence of the Christian militia in the areas of conflict would be reduced and Israel would limit its flights over Lebanon. Sources in Jerusalem told our correspondent that the diplomatic efforts would continue in the coming days, though the prospects for their success could not be assessed at this time. Philip Habib is to meet this morning with Shim'on Peres, and he will then fly to Damascus and to Beirut.

Flights Unrestricted

TA130659 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 13 May 81

[Text] Here is an announcement we have just received: The prime minister's office says that the U.S. compromise plan for Lebanon, reports about which arrived last night from the United States, does not speak of restricting Israeli flights over Lebanon.

PERES MEETS WITH HABIB; SEES CHANCE OF SUCCESS

TA131009 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 13 May 81

[Text] Labor Party's Chairman Shim'on Peres says that U.S. Envoy Philip Habib this morning presented to him a U.S. plan for solving the crisis in Lebanon. Mr Peres declined to divulge details about the plan. He was speaking to reporters in Jerusalem following an hour-long meeting he held with Philip Habib. Immediately after this meeting, Habib departed for Damascus and Beirut.

The REUTER correspondent in Jerusalem says that Mr Peres stressed to the reporters following his talk with Habib that Israel must insist on the removal of the Syrian missiles from Lebanon, but it must allow time for this and enable U.S. diplomacy to do its work. It is not a matter of hours or days, Mr Peres said; it could go on even for a week or longer. In my estimation, Peres said, there is a chance for the diplomatic efforts to succeed. The correspondent adds that the opposition leader was sharply critical of Prime Minister Menahem Begin's handling of the crisis.

SYRIAN MESSAGE SAYS NO CONFRONTATION SOUGHT

TA121511 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 12 May 81

[Text] Syria has sent a message to Israel through the Netherlands, stating that it wants to refrain from a confrontation with Israel. Correspondent Dan Eshel reports that the message was delivered yesterday at the Syrian Foreign Ministry to the Netherlands ambassador in Damascus, who was asked to convey it to the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem through Christoph van der Klaauw, the Netherlands foreign minister, currently visiting Israel.

Our correspondent notes that the Foreign Ministry's reaction to the Syrian message was that Israel also is not interested in a confrontation with Syria. European Community President van der Klaauw is currently meeting with Labor Party leader Shim'on Peres.

TIME SAID TO BE RUNNING OUT ON DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS

TA121734 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 12 May 81

[Text] In the talks conducted in Jerusalem today with U.S. Envoy Philip Habib, Israel informed him that it would not set a time limit for the diplomatic efforts [to solve the Lebanon crisis]. However, time was running out. Correspondent Alan Ben-Ami reports that the U.S. envoy will return to Damascus tomorrow for another round of talks.

Based on the reports Habib brought to Jerusalem, ministers believe that the Syrians want to continue the diplomatic contacts and, as the ministers phrased it, the Syrians have not closed the door on them.

Our correspondent adds that the prime minister will send a letter to President Reagan expressing the hope that the crisis in Lebanon can be solved. The prime minister will reiterate that the previous situation must be restored in Lebanon and that the escalation in the situation stems from the presence of 14 missile batteries stationed in Lebanon proper and on the Syrian-Lebanese border. The most serious aspect is the presence of the SAM-6 and SAM-9 missiles on Lebanese soil. Mentioning that the military option was still feasible, Mr Begin said [as heard] to President Reagan that he also gave thought to the young pilots that may be required to endanger their lives to bring about the end of the missile affair. The prime minister's message comes in reply to a message from the U.S. President conveyed by U.S. diplomat Philip Habib.

This evening Mr Begin will report to the Cabinet ministers on his talks with the U.S. envoy.

SYRIAN SAM'S FIRED AT AIR FORCE PLANES 12 MAY

TA121704 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 12 May 81

[Text] The IDF spokesman announced that several Syrian surface-to-air missiles were fired at noon today toward air force planes that were on a routine patrol in the Al-Biqa' region. The missiles were apparently launched from a Syrian missile battery located within Syria, near the Lebanese border and near the Lebanese Al-Biqa'. The air force planes were not hit and returned safely to base.

According to reports by foreign sources in Lebanon the missiles against the IDF planes were fired early in the morning.

IDF DENIES 'PILOTLESS PLANE' DOWNED BY SYRIANS

TA131016 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 13 May 81

[Text] Syria is now claiming that the Israeli plane it shot down over Lebanon was a pilotless plane. The IDF spokesman absolutely denies this. Syrian television, in a late-night news broadcast, showed fragments which the announcer described as being wreckage of the Israeli pilotless plane. An AP correspondent says that there were Hebrew letters on the fragments and the number 203. The IDF spokesman denies this report and reiterates that no Israeli plane was downed yesterday--either with or without a pilot. The IDF spokesman explains that about 1 and 1/2 years ago, he announced that a pilotless Israeli plane that was on a reconnaissance mission over Lebanon and Syria did not return to its base. The IDF spokesman said at that time that the plane may have been hit over Syria. It would appear, then, that the Syrians are now showing wreckage of that old plane.

COMPROMISE PROPOSALS ON SYRIAN MISSILES REJECTED

TA121236 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 12 May 81 pp 1, 15

[By Ilan Kfir and Refa'el Mann]

[Excerpts] Israel has rejected compromise proposals according to which the Syrian missiles will remain in Lebanon if Syria pledges to operate them only for defense missions. This position was crystallized yesterday among the members of the senior political team dealing with the subject even though the leaders of Syria have made it clear to U.S. mediator Philip Habib that the moving of missiles into Lebanon was done only to defend its own forces inside Lebanon.

Israel continues to demand a return of the situation in Lebanon to its previous state. Jerusalem's impression from Habib's remarks was that the United States supports Israel's position but is stalling for more time in an effort to work out a political solution. A senior Jerusalem political source last night described the situation as follows: "After Habin briefed the prime minister, still no political way out of the crisis can be seen."

KNESSET COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS BEGIN'S REMARKS

TA121750 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 12 May 81

[Text] In its next session next week the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee will discuss the prime minister's remarks at the Knesset yesterday regarding the cancellation of the air force's operation against the missiles in Lebanon because of the weather conditions. The deputy chairman of the committee, Me'ir Talmi, today sent a letter to the prime minister in which he wrote that this issue would be the first on the committee's agenda. Thus, the proposal raised by MK Zerah Warhaftig was accepted, after several members of the committee demanded that Menahem Begin be summoned for a special clarification following his speech yesterday. The members of the coalition in the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee objected to the clarification. However, as said, it was decided to include this issue in the agenda of the committee's session next week.

Our correspondent notes that the members of the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee were told about 1 week ago that the IDF had three times canceled an operation to destroy the Syrian missiles in Lebanon, scheduled for 30 April. However, they were asked and even made to promise to keep this information secret.

JERUSALEM REPORT ASSESSES LEBANESE SITUATION

TA121940 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 12 May 81

[Military correspondent Dan Semama Report--live]

[Text] The danger inherent in the stationing of the Syrian missiles in Lebanon and on the Lebanese-Syrian border is no longer a theoretical danger but rather a practical one. Since they stationed the missiles in Lebanon, the Syrians have time and again claimed that the missiles had been stationed to defend their forces. According to foreign media reports, Israeli Air Force planes have in the last 10 days continued with routine patrols over Lebanese territory, including the Al-Biqa' valley.

In this context, military sources in Israel recall that the announcer on Damascus radio for the first time yesterday said--and this is a quote: the penetration of the Zionist planes into Lebanese skies will no longer be a joy ride. Let Begin issue orders to his planes and pilots and he will see with his own eyes how Syria prepares a heavy punishment for its enemies and how the missile fire reaches the planes and shoots them down like flies--unquote.

This was in fact the first step in the escalation of the situation. The second step was the firing of two missiles--according to reports from Lebanon--into Lebanese skies in the Zahlah area. The third step came at noon: Several missiles were fired from Syrian territory toward our planes which were on a routine patrol flight over the Al-Biqa' valley.

Israel regards the firing of the missiles as an obvious aggressive action. The Syrians took a most serious step and this situation could drive both sides to a comprehensive war. The firing of the missiles at the Israeli Air Force planes--Israeli military sources said--is an overt and blatant Syrian provocation. According to the military elements, as far as Israel is concerned the military flights over Lebanese skies will continue since these flights are vital to Israel's security. The IDF continues to alertly follow the Syrian actions in Lebanon. Elements in Israel recall that an operation against the missiles has so far been prevented in order to try to solve the crisis between Syria and Israel through diplomatic means only. Israel is now examining the implications of Syria's latest moves. There are some military elements who fear that this is not a coincidental deterioration. According to them, this may be a calculated escalation and every step in this escalation has been weighed.

MAJOR HADDAD COMMENTS IN TEL AVIV ON LEBANON

TA121900 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1830 GMT 12 May 81

[Excerpt] Tel Aviv, 12 May--Militia commander in southern Lebanon Maj Sa'd Haddad turned up at the afternoon session of the day of lectures [held in memory of the late Lt Gen David El'azar in Tel Aviv University] and was received with long applause. For a long time he told the participants about the problems and aspirations of the southern Lebanon inhabitants.

"We do not have any desire to separate from northern Lebanon--he declared--we recognize Beirut as the capital of our country and the Lebanese are our brothers, regardless of religion, community or region. However, the north is given to Syrian occupation and our goal is to see the entire Lebanon independent, free and prosperous. All our desire and hope is to see the terrorist leave our country and to live in peace and fraternity with all the neighbors just as we live with Israel today."

Major Haddad reported that about 100,000 people live in southern Lebanon in 44 villages and settlements. He noted that not all are Christians--some are Shi'ites, others are Muslims and so on. Due to the situation in the north, he said, Christians who escape from the Syrian occupying forces are emigrating to the south "since it is safer to be with us than in the other parts of our country."

Half of the residents of the south find their livelihood in agriculture, by growing grains, tobacco, citrus fruits and other agricultural products. Some work in construction in Israel as well. There is also light industry and handicraft. The southerners maintain trade relations with the north and with Israel, and indirectly with the other Arab countries as well as with other countries.

Major Haddad added that there are about 6,000 UNIFIL soldiers in the area who cooperate with (the Syrian) "inter-Arab deterrent army" as well as with the Lebanese Army, which, according to Haddad, does not exist as a real force in the area. Haddad added that the UNIFIL force in fact overlooks the entrenchment in the area of about 800 PLO terrorists. The Lebanese Government headed by President Sarkis does not have any control over the areas which are held by the Syrians and the terrorists, Haddad said, adding that Beirut's government acts by Syrian dictates.

"Therefore, we declared the free southern Lebanon zone, with the confidence that a day will come when our entire country will be liberated from foreigners' occupation."

BEGIN INVITES MITTERRAND TO VISIT ISRAEL

TA111103 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 11 May 81

[Text] Prime Minister Menahem Begin has invited French President-elect Francois Mitterrand to visit Israel. In a congratulatory message he sent this morning the prime minister says Mitterrand will be received here not only with the honor due to a state leader but also as a dear friend who has never turned his back on Israel and has always cared for Israel's security.

This morning the head of Mitterrand's office said the president will willingly accept the invitation to visit Israel but will not do so before the elections in Israel.

In his congratulatory message the prime minister also reminds Mitterrand of their past meetings and says he believes that during his presidency the splendid friendship between France and Israel will be restored.

LIBYANEW PEOPLE'S COMMITTEE FORMED IN WASHINGTON

LD121428 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 12 May 81

[Text] The student congress masses in the United States of America marched to the Libyan Arab People's Bureau in Washington and set up a people's committee to administer people's work, to stress the historic choice of the Libyan people in establishing people's authority and to realize direct democracy. The people's committee addressed a statement to the American people, which reads as follows:

While we are surprised by the U.S. administration's irresponsible measure of closing the People's Bureau and banishing all its members, the Libyan masses in America stress their complete faith in the Libyan people in establishing people's authority, considering it a human gain which in no way can be relinquished, however big the sacrifices.

The statement stresses that the relations in which the Libyan Arab people believe, according to this concept, are popular relations linking peoples, the rightful owners of the true interests of these relations, and not relations between governments, which change according to the whims of these governments and the circumstances under which they fall.

In its statement the people's committee notes that relations of the Libyan people with the American and other peoples cannot be severed by a governmental political decision, for they are relations which will last as long as these peoples last. It makes clear that there is no alternative to the form which our people have chosen in their relations with the people, and people's committees will continue to be formed in the United States.

The committee hails the solidarity of scientific and popular bodies and establishments and American individuals with the Libyan Arab people who denounced the decision of Reagan's government to close the People's Bureau. It calls on the American people to continue to support and strengthen direct popular relations with the Libyan Arab people.

TALKS HELD, REVOLUTIONARY PROGRAM SIGNED WITH SDAR

LD120434 Tripoli Voice of Arab Homeland in Arabic 2315 GMT 11 May 81

[Text] The brother secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison tonight received brother Mohamed Ould Salek, member of the Political Bureau and minister of information of the SDAR, who is now on a visit to the Jamahiriya. Brother Ould Salek expressed the gratitude and appreciation of the Saharan people for the backing and support which the people of the Jamahiriya are rendering to the heroic struggle they are waging for freedom, independence and self-determination. The Saharan minister lauded the results of the visit by the brother leader to the Soviet Union, Yugoslavia and Bulgaria and the backing and support which this visit had achieved for the Palestinian issue and the question of the struggle of the Saharan people.

During this meeting the Saharan minister of information emphasized that the present activities of the Moroccan regime confirm the conspiratorial role of this regime at a time when it should pay attention to backing the Palestinian issue and to halting the Zionist-separatist aggression which the Palestinian revolution and Lebanon are currently being exposed to.

The Saharan minister praised the quick action taken by the Jamahiriya to confront developments in Lebanon and the contacts it made with the Arab brethren to adopt a united Arab stand.

A JANA correspondent has learned that at this meeting the question of coordinating stands to confront the suspicious moves being made by the Moroccan regime in an attempt to distort the courageous stances of the Great 1 September Revolution towards supporting and backing the struggle of the Saharan people and the question of confronting Moroccan ambitions in the Sahara and the Wadi were discussed.

Within the framework of strategic relations between the Great September Revolution and the revolution of the Saharan Arab people, and stemming from the firm stances of the two revolutions in confronting colonialism, imperialism and Arab reaction; in assertion of the serious role being played by revolutionary information to expose imperialism and the reactionary regimes; and in view of its [word indistinct] of the Arab masses and inciting them to launch a counterattack on colonialism and the reactionary regimes which are linked to it, the Administrative Committee for Revolutionary Information and the SDAR information delegation, led by brother Mohamed Salem Salek, minister of information, met on 10 May and reviewed and studied the issues which concern revolutionary information. These issues were as follows:

1. To consolidate the triumph achieved for the revolution of the Saharan Arab people and the [words indistinct] revolution to the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia and his call for widening the Front of Steadfastness and Confrontation to confront the Zionist campaign against Lebanon and the Arab homeland.
2. To intensify revolutionary information so as to confront reactionary misinformation, which is aimed at destroying the Arab nation and which calls for defeat and capitulation.
3. To create fighting revolutionary information which calls for a pan-Arab battle and comprehensive confrontation against the agent reactionary regimes and for foiling the colonialist schemes in the Arab region and Africa--the schemes which provide for the return of colonialism once more.
4. To expose the reactionary regimes in Morocco and Egypt, to foil the capitulatory-reactionary plan, to incite the Arab masses to carry out a revolution against them and to overthrow them.
5. To undertake a struggle which would call for abolishing the Camp David agreements and to condemn the contacts which the King of Morocco is making with the Zionist enemy.
6. To join the revolutionary forces in the world and their information media, which are struggling against colonialism and reaction.

The revolutionary action program in the fields of broadcasting, news, printing, publication and foreign information and training and programs was signed in Tripoli this evening. The program was signed by the brother secretary of the Administrative Committee for Revolutionary Information and by brother Mohamed Ould Salek, SDAR minister of information.

SUDAN

DEFLECTIONS FROM CHAD GOVERNMENT ARMY REPORTED

JN121152 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1052 GMT 12 May 81

[Text] Khartoum, 12 May (SUNA)--The Chadian Northern Armed Forces of Hissein Habre have announced that large numbers of forces belonging to Goukouni Oueddei and his interior minister Mahamat Abba have begun to escape from Ndjamena and join the northern forces. A statement issued by the northern forces today welcomed the strugglers who had joined them to fight against the Libyan occupation forces.

The statement held the Libyan invasion forces responsible for the recent events in Abeche and Mao, during which large numbers of the sons of the Chadian people were killed. It affirmed that the Chadian fighters are suffering from Libyan provocations and harassment.

The statement accused the invading forces of carrying out large-scale assassinations among the ranks of the Chadian forces. It appealed to the honest sons of Chad to return to their senses and not be deceived by their leaders Goukouni Oueddei and Mahamat Abba. It also appealed to them to join their brothers and carry arms against the Libyan occupation forces.

TUNISIAPRESS STATEMENT ON JORDAN'S PRINCE HASAN VISIT

JN091607 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1450 GMT 9 May 81

[Text] Tunis, 9 May (PETRA)--In a press statement issued in the Tunisian capital today at the end of the visit His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan and Her Royal Highness Princess Tharwat paid to the Republic of Tunisia, the Jordanian and Tunisian sides stressed the need to continue work for strengthening Arab solidarity, unifying ranks in the face of the Zionist enemy and supporting the Palestinian people's struggle under their sole legitimate representative, the PLO, for the sake of restoring their usurped rights, establishing their national independent state and bringing about Israel's withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories, including holy Jerusalem.

The two sides also stressed the need to continue work in accordance with the resolutions of the 11th Arab summit conference held in Amman in order to realize the joint Arab development decade, to render the Arab economic strategy successful and to tighten the links between the eastern and western parts of the Arab world. Following is the text of the statement:

Joint press statement issued at the end of the visit His Royal Highness Prince Hasan ibn Talal and Her Highness Princess Tharwat paid to the Republic of Tunisia 5-9 May 1981.

Within the framework of the fraternal relations existing between the Republic of Tunisia and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, His Royal Highness Prince Hasan ibn Talal, crown prince of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, and Her Highness Princess Tharwat paid an official visit to the Republic of Tunisia from 5 to 9 May 1981 at the invitation of Tunisian Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali and his wife.

His royal highness the prince was received in audience by Great Mujahid His Excellency President Habib Bourguiba, to whom his Royal Highness Prince Hasan communicated a message of amity and fraternity from his brother His Majesty King Husayn. Prince Hasan also communicated to his excellency the feelings of amity and appreciation the Jordanian people harbor for the fraternal Tunisian people.

Tunisian Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali and His Royal Highness Prince Hasan held talks that were permeated by a spirit of fraternity and reciprocal understanding. These talks dealt in particular with relations between the two fraternal countries and the two sides' concepts regarding the Arab and Islamic issues. The two sides' viewpoints regarding these issues were identical.

During the visit, his highness the prince and her highness the princess became acquainted with the features of advancement and progress achieved by the Tunisian people in the various fields under the leadership of Great Mujahid President Habib Bourguiba.

The two sides expressed their eagerness to consolidate the bonds of the fraternal relations existing between the two fraternal countries and expressed their solid determination to bolster them.

Out of this political determination, they underlined the necessity of further entrenching the cooperation formulas and exchanging experiences in the various fields, particularly in the fields of economy, sociology, trade, peasantry, manpower, labor, culture, science and tourism. They also stressed the importance of exchanging expertise in the fields of chemicals, especially in the spheres of phosphates and fertilizers, and establishing joint training institutes. They proposed the establishment of a joint committee to draw up the scientific framework of this cooperation. The two sides also expressed the desire to intensify bilateral contacts and the exchange of delegations' visits on all levels.

As for the situation in the Arab arena, the two sides underlined the importance of continuing the efforts to bolster Arab solidarity, to unite all ranks in the confrontation of the Zionist enemy and to support the Palestinian people under the PLO, their sole legitimate representative, so that they can restore their usurped rights and establish their own independent national state.

The two sides also stressed that Israel should withdraw from all the occupied Arab territories, including the holy city of Jerusalem.

The two sides also stressed the need to continue work in accordance with the resolutions of the 11th Arab summit conference held in Amman in order to realize the joint Arab development decade, to render the Arab economic strategy successful and to tighten the links between the eastern and western parts of the Arab world.

Regarding the continued Israeli aggression against the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples and facing the Israeli designs which are intended to tear up Lebanon's topographic unity and harm its sovereignty, the two sides insisted on backing the Lebanese Government in its confrontation against the Zionist policy. The two sides called on the world conscience to stand against the Zionist practices, which jeopardize the Middle East's peace and security.

His Highness Prince Hasan, the crown prince of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, expressed his appreciation and admiration for what he has witnessed of the scenes of progress and construction in the Republic of Tunisia and of the various accomplishments Tunisia is achieving in all fields under the leadership of Great Mujahid President Habib Bourguiba and his prudent government. His Highness Crown Prince Hasan expressed his thanks and gratitude to Tunisian Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali and to the Tunisian people for the warm welcome and cordial hospitality accorded him.

PRESIDENT CONGRATULATES MITTERRAND ON ELECTION

LD111642 Tunis TAP in English 1425 GMT 11 May 81

["Pool" item]

[Text] Tunis, 11 May (TAP)--President Bourguiba sends today a greeting message to the new French President Mr Francois Mitterrand. In this message the Tunisian head of state expresses the hope to see "the relations of deep exemplary friendship and fruitful secular cooperation between Tunisia and France, more strengthened." He also asserts that the two countries' fondness of equality and justice will reinforce their solidarity and enable them to act jointly for the establishment of peace in the Mediterranean and the rest of the world.

WESTERN SAHARA

OFFICIAL VIEWS MOROCCAN DIPLOMATIC OFFENSIVE

LD092346 Algiers APS in English 1023 GMT 9 May 81

[Text] Hawza (SADR--liberated territories), 9 May (APS)--The Polisario deputy-secretary general Mr Bachir Mustapha Sayed, commenting on the so-called Moroccan diplomatic offensive, said "It is both ridiculous and vain."

"It is laughable," he declared, "because the political blindness of the one who set up this scenario designed to a pure domestic consumption, should not lead him to rely on effects on world opinion, particularly over the deroute of the Moroccan occupation forces in the battle field despite the huge monarchist effort of the recent years."

"It is also a doomed operation," Mr Sayed added, "despite all efforts, because it informs the countries visited but on the Rabat's intransigence and war-mongering known by all for a long time."

"Whopping lie and beating about the bush will not change anything" Mr Sayed concluded.

On the other hand, the Saharan foreign minister, Brahim Hakim, arrived Thursday in Bamako to hand over a message from the Polisario secretary general, Mr Abdelaziz, to Mali's General Moussa Traore.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLICDACKO EXPLAINS LEGISLATIVE ELECTION POSTPONEMENT

AB081207 Paris AFP in French 0941 GMT 8 May 81

[Text] Bangui, 8 May (AFP)--The Central African president, Mr David Dacko, believes, unfortunately, that the legislative elections calendar prescribed by the constitution cannot be enforced. In fact, in an interview with the weekly newspaper REALITEES CENTRAFRICAISES the head of state explained that the postponement of these elections, initially scheduled for mid-June, was due to the prevailing tension, disorder and lack of understanding from the other unlucky candidates.

Mr Dacko also explained that it will be necessary to reorganize the entire procedure, to redesign the voting cards and to check the lists and verify that those registered meet the legal requirements. It is only after this that we can truly proceed with the elections, the Central African head of state added.

President David Dacko describes the awareness of the rural regions as a priority task. Each minister will have to do some fieldwork in order to be closer to the local problems, to shoulder responsibilities in their task of renovation and to involve everyone in the implementation of urgent tasks, the head of state indicated.

The Central African head of state also pointed out what the role of resident ministers would be. They are to function like super prefects receiving the complaints of rural people on a priority basis. He also added that based on grants they will receive, the resident ministers will be required to implement urgent projects to prove to the population that the government has begun to make an effort and that the population must also go back to work.

Touching on the program for economic and social revival, President David Dacko noted that the CAR needs foreign aid. The main cooperation that we desire is cooperation with France, the Central African president said. The head of state finally asserted that women would be progressively called upon to occupy high positions. We intend to include 10 female candidates who have already been chosen by my party in the general elections, Mr David Dacko concluded.

CHADGOVERNMENT MOVES TO BRING LIBYANS 'TO HEEL'

AB121556 Paris AFP in English 1544 GMT 12 May 81

[Excerpt] Ndjamea, May 12 (AFP)--Chad's coalition government, acting sharply to bring the Libyan Army to heel after it clashed with forces loyal to the president, said today that it was firing the Libyan commanders in the eastern Chad town where the fighting took place. The government of President Goukouni Oueddei decreed that the Libyan regional commands in Chad be consolidated in one headquarters command in Ndjamea, the capital, so that the Libyans would be at the orders of Mr. Goukouni exclusively.

These measures were the first public actions taken against the Libyans by the Ndjamea government since it called them into Chad to put down former Defense Minister Hissein Habre's nine-month rebellion last December.

In a statement issued after a cabinet meeting today, the government said Libya had accepted its decisions. The statement said Colonel Hassan Isqal Mufta, commander of the Libyan detachment in Abeche, 600 kms (400 miles) east of Ndjamea, had been ordered removed along with his deputy, a Lieutenant-Colonel Ali.

Abeche was the scene of clashes in mid-April between forces of Acyl Ahmat, an ally of Libya who is foreign minister in the uneasy Chad coalition, and others loyal to Mr. Goukouni. Libyan soldiers backed up Mr. Acyl's men, and about 100 people reportedly were killed.

Mr. Goukouni flew to Tripoli a week afterward. Today's statement confirmed reports at the time that he had gone to complain about the conduct of the Libyan expeditionary force in Chad, which according to Western intelligence reports may now number up to 10,000. The statement also said the government planned eventually to withdraw the Libyan contingent from the eastern region, along the sensitive border with Sudan. The Sudanese president, Ja'far Numayri, has recently strengthened his ties with Egypt and called for the removal of Libyan leader Mu'ammr al-Qadhafi.

The statement called on pro-Acyl elements to withdraw from Abeche so that a mixed force of pro-government men could move in. And, the government said it planned to name a prefect and a sub-prefect for the Abeche region. This appeared to confirm reports that the officials in these posts had been killed in the April fighting.

GOVERNMENT BANS STRIKES, DEMONSTRATIONS

AB101254 Paris AFP in French 0921 GMT 10 May 81

[Text] Ndjamea, 10 May (AFP)--Strikes and demonstrations have been banned until further notice by the Transitional National Union Government (GUNT) in Ndjamea on Sunday. This edict follows the recent distribution of tracts calling on the people to demonstrate against the Libyan military presence in Chad, and the strike action which was begun by the hospital personnel in Ndjamea.

The GUNT communique, which defends its prevention of the exercise of the right to strike, stresses that this measure is aimed at ending the increasing social agitation, taking place when, in a situation like Chad's, the spirit of dialogue and patriotism should prevail.

In other developments, sources close to the GUNT state that the minister of health, Mr Moussa Medellah, resigned from the government and fled the country (probably to Sudan) in order to avoid answering for certain malpractices. The minister, who is also the leader of the Western Armed Forces (FAO) faction, was in charge of receiving and distributing gifts (food, money, drugs) given to Chad by international donors.

ZAIRE

NEW PRIME MINISTER ADDRESSES EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

AB101228 Paris AFP in French 1011 GMT 10 May 81

[Text] Brazzaville, 10 May (AFP)--According to Radio Zaire, monitored in Brazzaville, Nsinga Odju Ongwabeki Untube, the new Zairian first state commissioner (prime Minister), has said that the main mission of his government will be first and foremost to restore state authority.

In a recent address to the Executive Council (government), which met for the first time under his chairmanship in Kinshasa, Mr Nsinga insisted on the need for a change in attitude and behavior in order to succeed in the task of national revival. He also stressed that all decisions of the Executive Council had to be implemented and that those who refused to do so would receive sanctions.

The first state commissioner also touched on the problem of the abuse of influence in the commercial sector by certain dishonest Zairians who use the head of state's name to further their business interests. Mr Nsinga called on the ministers to denounce such individuals who will be severely punished.

NIGERIAPOLITICAL PARTIES CALL FOR SHAGARI IMPEACHMENT

AB111748 Jos NIGERIA STANDARD in English 11 May 81 p 16

[Article by Bisi Idowu in Kaduna]

[Text] Four political parties...the PRP, [People's Redemption Party], UPN [Unity Party of Nigeria], NPP [Nigerian People's Party] and GNPP [Great Nigerian People's Party] have called for the impeachment of the president, Lahaji Shehu Shagari. Making the call in Kaduna at the weekend, a spokesman of the four parties, Mr. Bamabas Dauda Dau on their behalf called on all the state and national assemblies to join hands and impeach Alhaji Shehu Shagari.

According to Mr. Dau, the president was behind the happening in Kaduna State and was creating problems there without examining himself that he had committed more grievous offences which would warrant his impeachment than Governor Balarabe Musa.

Mr. Dau was speaking to journalists after five lorry loads of anti-riot policemen had dispersed a crowd of more than 10,000 partymen and supporters who had gathered at the Murtala Square, Kaduna for a political rally jointly organised by the four political parties.

Mr. Dau expressed disappointment over the action of the state police commissioner, adding that it had now actually confirmed all the allegations against him because it had become clear that the police commissioner had lost neutrality as a law enforcing agent.

Mr. Dau, fuming with anger, told journalists that members of the four parties as law-abiding citizens, duly obtained police permit for the rally. He showed journalists a permit dated May 8 with reference number SB 8269/NGV 4/181 which he said was issued by the police for the rally to hold. Mr. Dau explained that after they had obtained the permit, they went ahead to pay N200 for the use of Murtala Square.

He said he did not know any reason for the police action because when they arrived at the venue of the rally, they met a peaceful congregation.

The spokesman explained that the rally was meant for the solidarity of the four parties which had no connection whatsoever with steps being taken by the state assembly to impeach Governor Balarabe Musa. He warned that the four parties would never be forced to submission through intimidation by either the police or the NPN.

Mr Dau said that any right-thinking person in the country today had already known that the NPN was a party which did not wish the country well.

He called for the immediate removal of the Kaduna State police commissioner because he had lost neutrality as a police officer.

The spokesman stated that the four parties had decided not to hold the rally any longer, not because they were afraid of the policemen who were armed to the teeth, but because they would not like to do anything that would cause instability and general state of unrest in the country.

Among those expected at the rally were, Mr. Paul Onongo, the former steel minister, Mr. Josiah Sunday Olaqoyin, Kwara State chairman of the UPN, the Kaduna State chairman of the PRP, Alhaji Bala Keffi and three national executive members from each of the four parties.

The Kaduna state commissioner of police, Alhaji Hamza Katsina in a telephone interview confirmed the issuance of permit to the four political parties to hold a rally. He explained that he gave the order for the cancellation of the rally because the permit was issued by an incompetent officer and because it was wrong to allow four political parties to hold a joint rally at the same place and time.

NPP SUPPORTS KADUNA GOVERNOR AGAINST IMPEACHMENT

AB111734 Jos NIGERIA STANDARD in English 11 May 81 p 16

[Article: "NPP Pledges To Back Balarabe Against Impeachment"]

[Text] The national vice-chairman of the Nigerian People's Party (NPP), Chief R.B.K. Okafor, has said that his party will give Governor Balarabe Musa of Kaduna State, all necessary support against impeachment by the state assembly.

Chief Okafor told the NEWS AGENCY OF NIGERIA (NAN) at Oguta, Imo State that the NPP would make sure that the National Party of Nigeria (NPN) dominated Kaduna assembly did not muster the required two-third majority support in the house to carry out the impeachment exercise.

Chief Okafor described the action of the Kaduna legislators as immature and politically crude.

The NPP leader appealed to the legislators to consider the political implications of such a move and halt the action.

And in Benin, the speaker of the Bendel State House of Assembly, Mr. Benson Alegbe, said that he would not believe media reports that the Kaduna State House of Assembly had embarked on the process to impeach the state governor, Alhaji Abdulkadir Balarabe Musa.

Mr. Alegbe, who led a peace mission to Kaduna recently for a solution to the stalemate between the state executive and the legislature, told the NEWS AGENCY OF NIGERIA (NAN) that it was mutually agreed by the mission and the speaker of the Kaduna State House of Assembly, Alhaji Dan Musa, that all processes of impeaching the governor would be dropped.

"I have absolute faith in the speaker that he would keep his own side of the pledge to suspend all processes of impeachment," Mr. Alegbe said.

"If, on the other hand, it is a fact that the impeachment process had begun, members of the Kaduna House of Assembly must have brought it about because they are not a part of the decision we took," Mr. Alegbe added.

UPN ACCUSED OF TRYING TO SUBVERT CONSTITUTION

AB121700 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1500 GMT 12 May 81

[Text] The Unity Party of Nigeria, UPN, and the mass media it owns or controls have been accused of deliberately working to subvert the constitution and destabilize the Federal Government in the country.

The presidential adviser on information, Chief Olu Adebajo, said this was being carried out surprisingly with the support of the party leader, Chief Obafemi Awolowo. The special adviser pointed out that the UPN and its press had done everything to incite the people and the armed forces against the president and government. They did this, he said, by daily preaching chaos and rebellion, pursuing vigorously a campaign of denigration against decent and patriotic leaders through reckless and seditious jealousy and disrespect for truth, decency and tolerance.

This was contained in a statement by Chief Adebajo today in reaction to criticism of Federal Government-owned media, the latest of which was by Chief Obafemi Awolowo blaming them for fanning the embers of discord, disunity and trouble. The special adviser said the Federal Government had never interfered with any Federal Government-owned mass media organization. In fact, he said, I am the closest member of the Federal Government to these media and I have never interfered either overtly or covertly with the editorial judgment of their professional staff.

The board of these organizations, he said, were performing responsibilities assigned to them under the articles of associations and acts. The special adviser described the accusations against the Federal Radio Corporation of Nigeria, FRCN, and the Nigeria press agency as a deliberate attempt to blackmail all mass media organizations friendly to the government.

Similarly, the DAILY TIMES and the NEW NIGERIAN in which the government had financial (?assets) were being falsely accused. Chief Adebajo said it was therefore hypocritical and highly immoral for Chief Awolowo to turn round and blame the Federal Government for what he, his party and its organs of mass communications were clearly guilty of. He also accused the UPN of reckless abusing of the freedom of press even while shouting about preserving this important fundamental human right.

He said a UPN Federal Government would clearly have resulted in an unmitigated disaster for the free press in Nigeria. Chief Adebajo explained that the presidential system has no place either for an opposition leader or a shadow cabinet and asked Chief Awolowo to recast his role as an elder statesman and pioneer of Nigerian independence to bring maturity into constructive citizens of government.

INDUSTRIAL ACTION LEADS TO AGREEMENT ENDING STRIKE

AB121838 Lagos International Service in English 1630 GMT 12 May 81

[Text] The industrial action called by the Nigerian Labor Congress (NLC), which entered the second day today, has infiltrated the House of Representatives and led the house to cut short its proceedings. Our correspondent reports that workers had refused to service the air-conditioning equipment in the chambers while government printers did not produce the order paper.

Other reports from the federal capital said flights in and out of Murtala Mohammed Airport were disrupted and [words indistinct] went wrong. The buses of Lagos State Transport Corporation (LSTC) are still off the roads, and some department stores as well as post offices remain closed.

However, private transport operators who were harassed for offering services early yesterday, returned to the roads in full force today, and seem to have been coping with the effects of the absence of the LSTC buses. Also, work is going on as usual in most sections of the Federal Government secretariats and a number of government offices. Several appeals have been made, in the meantime, to the NLC to suspend its action.

But the president of the Nigerian Civil Service Union, Mr David C Ojeli has called on the NLC president, Alhaji Hassan Sunmonu, to resign for lack of vision and direction. He accused the NLC leader of trying to drag workers into partisan politics by yielding to the pressures of a particular political party. Mr Ojeli wondered why Alhaji Hassan was making demands from government after he hailed the scrapping of car loans and allowances by the former military administration.

Agreement Reached

AB122201 Lagos Domestic Service in English 2100 GMT 12 May

[Text] A meeting between the Federal Government, represented by Dr Alex Ekwueme, the vice president of the Federal Republic of Nigeria; the president of the Senate, Dr Joseph Wayas; the speaker of the House of Representatives, Mr Edwin Ume-Ezeoke; the leader of the Senate, Dr Olufola Saraki; the leader of the House of Representatives, Alhaji Yunusa Kaltungo; the minister of employment, labor and productivity, Mr Samuel A. Ogedengbe; the secretary to the government of the federation, Alhaji Shehu A. Musa and the head of the civil (?service) of the federation, Mr (Grey Longe) and the representatives of the Nigeria Labor Congress [NLC] led by the national president and general secretary of the congress, Alhaji Hassan Sunmonu and Malam Aliyu Dangiwa respectively and 15 others was held on 12 May 1981 on the ongoing national industrial action called by the Nigeria Labor Congress. The following agreements were reached on each of the items listed below:

National Minimum Wage

1. It was recognized that the issue of determination of a national minimum wage is the responsibility of the National Assembly. The meeting therefore noted the rejection by the NLC of the 120 naira per month recommended by the House of Representatives Labor Committee for a more substantial amount.

It was therefore agreed that the National Assembly would be asked to conceive a legislation on the minimum wage within 30 days. It was also recognized that measures like increase in tax-free allowances, etc, would be worked out and adopted to make the [word indistinct] of the national wage meaningful.

Minimum Pension

3. Both parties accepted the increase from 33 naira to 60 naira a month as minimum pension and agreed to further examine the minimum for pensionaries who are 60 years or above. Restoration of vehicle advance and basic allowance.

4. It was agreed that the issue shall be reexamined within a period of 2 weeks. Congress accepts the increases in transport allowance already approved for the different categories of officers as below:

gl 01 to gl 06: 10 naira to 15 naira, 50 percent increase
gl 07 to gl 08: 15 naira to 20 naira, 33.5 percent increase
gl 08 to gl 11: 20 to 25 naira, 25 percent increase
gl 12 and above: 25 to 30 naira, 20 percent increase

General

5. Congress undertook to call off its industrial action with immediate effect.

6. Government ordered all employers not to penalize any employee for participating in the industrial action.

Signed: Alhaji Hassan Sunmonu, president. NLC; S.O. Musa, secretary to the government of the federation; Aliyu Dangiwa, general secretary NLC. Dated 12 May 1981.

SIERRA LEONE

POSSIBILITY OF AIR PACT WITH USSR EXPLORED

AB130823 Freetown Domestic Service in English 0655 GMT 13 May 81

[Text] The minister of transport and communications, Mr (Buraima Kebbie), has spoken about the possibility of exploring the aviation agreement between Sierra Leone and the Soviet Union to cover domestic services. [Words indistinct] yesterday soon after he returned from the Soviet Union where he headed a nine-man delegation, he said that the Soviet Union was not only willing to establish airlink with Sierra Leone but also to help develop domestic facilities, including aircraft. The international flights between Freetown and Moscow will soon commence with stops at Dakar and Budapest, but the frequency will be determined by the volume of passengers. The transport and communications minister also said that the international flights between Freetown and Moscow will be cheaper in comparison with other airlines.

ANGOLAJOSE DOS SANTOS CONGRATULATES MITTERRAND

LD121948 Luanda ANGOP in French 1445 GMT 12 May 81

[Text] Luanda, 12 May (ANGOP)--Jose Eduardo dos Santos, president of the MPLA-Labor Party, has sent a message of congratulations to Francois Mitterrand on the occasion of his election as president of the French Republic.

"We are convinced," the message reads, "that the presence of Your Excellency in the management of France's destiny will represent a further step toward detente in Europe and in the world and in the struggle against colonialism."

The Angolan president emphasizes that the election of Mitterrand has occurred at a particularly agitated moment in the world political situation, particularly in Africa, where it is important to put an end to the last positions of colonialism. The settlement of this requires the participation of the whole international community and of France in particular."

In the same message the head of the Angolan state expresses the solidarity of the Angolan people with the French people and "the firm resolution to consolidate yet further" relations between Angola and France.

SOUTH AFRICAROELOF BOTHA, DELEGATION DEPART FOR U.S. VISIT

LD122212 Johannesburg International Service in English 2100 GMT 12 May 81

[Excerpt] A top-level South African Government delegation led by Foreign Minister Mr Roelof Botha has left for the United States for talks with American Secretary of State Gen Alexander Haig. Mr Botha's trip to Washington is seen as the most important by (?the) South African foreign minister yet and is certain to center mainly on the South-West African independence issue.

Mr Botha is accompanied by the director general for foreign affairs, Dr Brand Fourie, and the chief director for overseas countries, Mr Carl von Hirschberg. In an interview with Radio South Africa before his departure Mr Botha said he hoped to convey to the American Government the South African Government's concern about the future of the continent and particularly of southern Africa. Mr Botha said he believed that southern Africa and South Africa should not be judged in isolation from the rest of the continent. He said that what was happening in the rest of Africa should be taken into account in any assessment made on the present policies of the South African Government. Mr Botha said he would also discuss with General Haig the Soviet Union's strategy in Africa and in southern Africa.

ZAMBIAPRESIDENT KAUNDA CONGRATULATES MITTERRAND

LD121928 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 11 May 81 CA

[Text] President Kaunda has sent a message of congratulations to the new French president, Francois Mitterrand, who yesterday beat incumbent Valery Giscard d'Estaing in the runoff election for France's 7-year presidency. Dr Kaunda said Mr Mitterrand's election as the first [word indistinct] Socialist president to head the French Government in more than 20 years confirms the trust and confidence many people in France show in his ability to lead them. He said the people of Zambia look forward to continued cooperation and to the strengthening of the cordial relations that exist between Zambia and France.